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FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

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RESEARCH REPORTS

.....

A SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SURVEY IN THE TOBACCO REGION OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

By Maurice Parmelee and Olen E. Leonard

A study of land utilization in the tobacco region of southern Maryland for the year 1935, made by the land economics staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, found that soil erosion was closely associated with the proportion of tillable land lying idle. 1/ The 160 farms included in the analysis were classified into "low idle land farms" and "high idle land farms." It was discovered that the low idle land farms had larger investments, were operated by more diversified enterprises, had higher farm incomes, and higher labor incomes. The 40 farms having the least idle land (17 percent of the tillable land) and the 40 farms having the most idle land (66 percent of the tillable land) were contrasted in this analysis.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics followed this study with a second one in 1938, in which the rural sociologists attempted to discover the relationships, if any, between the economic factors revealed in the first study and such factors as life histories, attitudes and opinions, standards of living, and social participation of the farm-operator families. Data were also classified on a tenure-status basis.

Table 1 presents data on the size of families, age, education, and mobility of operator. The following differences were found between the families on the two classes of farms:

- (1) Farm families are larger on the less eroded farms. 2/
- (2) Operators on the more severely eroded land are slightly older than on the less eroded lands.
- (3) Farm operators on the less eroded lands averaged six-tenths of a year more schooling than those on the more eroded farms.
- (4) Farm families on the more eroded lands have moved more often than those on the less eroded lands.

1/ Coddington, James W., and Derr, Daniel E., An Economic Study of Land Utilization in the Tobacco Region of Southern Maryland, Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin. (Unpublished.)

2/ Less eroded farms are synonymous with farms with less idle land.

Table 1.- Averages of certain social factors by tenure
and idle land groups

Item	:Number:Percent:		Average			
	: of	:of idle	:Size of	: Age of	:Education of	: Number of
	:cases	: land	:family	:operator	: operator	:times moved 1/
All families	120	47.2	4.0	49.9	6.9	2.0
Owners	67	46.0	3.7	51.9	7.8	1.5
Tenants	53	48.6	4.5	47.2	5.8	2.5
Low idle						
land group:						
Total	60	29.6	4.3	49.1	7.2	1.8
Owners	35	27.2	3.9	50.7	8.3	1.3
Tenants	25	32.9	4.9	46.8	5.7	2.4
High idle						
land group:						
Total	60	64.7	3.7	50.6	6.6	2.2
Owners	32	66.7	3.5	53.3	7.3	1.8
Tenants	28	62.5	4.0	47.5	5.8	2.6

1/ Number times moved since first year of independent farming experience.

Table 2.- Average amount spent per family for certain items
of family living for one year

Item	:Number:		Current		:Life and/or:		Education,		:Organized	
	: of	: reading	: materials	: insurance	: burial	: recreation,	: Cloth-	: social	: ing	: participation
	:cases					: amusement	: ing			
All fami-										
lies	119 1/	\$12		\$72		\$ 87	\$205		\$41	
Owners	67	15		92		121	209		55	
Tenants	52	9		47		44	201		23	
Low idle										
land group:										
Total	60	13		74		86	225		45	
Owners	35	16		90		104	235		62	
Tenants	25	9		52		61	211		21	
High idle										
land group:										
Total	59	11		70		88	186		37	
Owners	32	14		93		139	180		48	
Tenants	27	8		43		28	193		24	

1/ One tenant family, not reporting the information, omitted.

Level of Living

Table 2 presents data on certain items in the level of living and on social participation. The following facts appear:

- (1) Families on the less eroded farms spent slightly more for reading matter than the families on the more eroded farms.
- (2) Families on the less eroded lands spent more for life and/or burial insurance.
- (3) Farmers on the more eroded farms spent slightly more money for education, recreation, and amusement than did those on the less eroded farms.
- (4) Families on the less eroded farms spent about one-fourth more for clothing for the year than did those on the more eroded farms.
- (5) Farmers on the less eroded farms spent approximately one-fourth more for organized social participation than did those on the more eroded farms.

The quality of housing has been used in certain instances to indicate the general well-being of a group of people. Combined with certain items of comfort and modern facilities, it has been used to indicate the level of living in a region. 3/ In this study the farmers on the less eroded farms possess these advantages in greater abundance than do the farmers on the more severely eroded land. These advantages are found to be possessed disproportionately by the owners when compared with the tenants (Table 3). Some of the more noteworthy variations are:

- (1) The percentage of families with painted frame houses was fairly constant in the different land-use areas.
- (2) The furnaces were owned almost exclusively by the owners, and the heating stoves were used mainly by the tenants.
- (3) Light was furnished by kerosene lamps for three-fifths of the families, and electricity for one-third. The use of kerosene was more prevalent with the high idle land farm families, and electricity with the low idle land farm families.
- (4) More than one-third of these families depend upon a well and bucket for their water supply. A considerably smaller percentage possess a power pump and running water in the house.

3/ "Cultural Regions Within the Rural-Farm Population." Works Progress Administration Report. (Unpublished.)

Table 3.- Percentages of families reporting types of house construction, heating and water systems, water supply, and sanitation facilities

Item	: :Number: : of :cases :	: :Paint- :ed :frame :houses	: :Heating :system :Fur- :nace	: :Stove :tric- :ity	: :Lighting :system :Elec- :sene	: :Water :supply :Pow- :ning	: :Sanitation :facilities :Toilet :Out- :Flush: :side			
All families	119 <u>1/</u>	78	19	69	33	60	30	25	28	45
Owners	66	82	29	64	49	45	44	39	41	32
Tenants	53	74	6	75	13	79	13	8	11	62
Low idle land group:										
Total	59	75	24	68	41	54	37	34	34	44
Owners	34	82	35	62	53	41	53	50	47	29
Tenants	25	64	8	76	24	72	16	12	16	64
High idle land group:										
Total	60	82	13	70	25	67	23	17	22	46
Owners	32	81	22	66	44	50	34	28	34	35
Tenants	28	82	4	75	4	86	11	4	7	61

1/ One owner family, failing to give this information, omitted.

Table 4.- Percentages of families reporting possession of certain household equipment and certain other specified items

Item	: :Number: : of :cases :	: :Sew- :ing :ma- :chine	: :Household :equipment :Wash- :ing :ma- :chine	: :Ice box: : or :refrig- :erator	: :Musical :Instruments :Organ: :Piano: :Radio: :Tele- :phone	: :Means of :communication, :transportation :Auto- :mobile			
All families	119 <u>1/</u>	87	24	77	12	39	58	42	82
Owners	66	91	32	82	6	48	64	50	85
Tenants	53	81	13	72	19	28	51	32	79
Low idle land group:									
Total	59	81	32	86	10	41	58	49	85
Owners	34	85	38	94	6	47	65	59	88
Tenants	25	76	24	76	17	32	48	36	80
High idle land group:									
Total	60	92	15	68	13	38	58	35	80
Owners	32	97	25	69	6	50	63	41	81
Tenants	28	86	4	68	21	25	54	29	79

1/ One owner family, not reporting this information, omitted.

- (5) Running water, power pump, and flush toilet are more prevalent in the homes of the families on the less eroded land, while well and bucket and inferior or no toilet facilities are more often found in the possession of the families on the more severely eroded farms.

Table 4 contains data relative to possession of certain items of household equipment, musical instruments, and means of transportation and communication. The more pertinent facts are:

- (1) The percentage of families reporting possession of a sewing machine and automobile remains fairly constant throughout all groups of families.
- (2) The organ was found most often in the homes of the high idle land farmers, possibly because it is an older and less expensive instrument, while the piano is more prevalent in the homes of the low idle land families, since it is a more modern and expensive instrument.

The level of living column, Table 9, indicates the ratings of the different groups based on the possession of 10 items - electricity, telephone, radio, automobile, water piped into the dwelling, washing machine, ice box or refrigerator, rooms per dweller, subscriptions to periodicals, and insurance policies. 4/

The ratings of the families based on this index followed the usual pattern, namely, that the owners ranked higher than the tenants, and the low idle land group higher than the high idle land group. The number of rooms per dweller rated high for all groups - nearly one room per person.

Mobility

This group of farmers, as a whole, had been very stable. Almost one-third of the number had never moved during their entire independent farming experience.

4/ Each of these items was assigned a maximum value of 10 points. Some of them were valued as follows: (1) Water piped into house - to kitchen sink, 5 points; and to sink and bath, 10 points. (2) Icebox or refrigerator - icebox, 5 points; refrigerator, 10 points. (3) Rooms per dweller - 1 or more, 10 points; 0.9 valued at 9 points; 0.8 valued at 8 points, etc. (4) Subscriptions to periodicals - daily newspaper, 4 points; farm periodical, 2 points; weekly newspaper, women's religious, and other periodicals, 1 point each. Maximum, 10 points. (5) Insurance policies - life, 3 points; crop, 3 points; personal property, 2 points; burial and other policies, 1 point each.

Table 5.- Percentages of farmers who report having moved a specified number of times

Item	: Number : of : cases	Number of times moved				
		0	1	2-3	4-5	6 and over
All families	120	31	24	23	16	6
Owners	67	39	28	18	12	3
Tenants	53	21	19	30	21	9
Low idle land group:						
Total	60	32	30	18	17	3
Owners	35	40	34	17	6	3
Tenants	25	20	24	20	32	4
High idle land group:						
Total	60	30	18	29	15	8
Owners	32	37	22	19	19	3
Tenants	28	22	14	39	11	14

Some of the more noteworthy facts shown in the above table are:

- (1) The families on the less eroded land had not been as mobile as the families on the more severely eroded land.
- (2) Three-fifths of the low idle land group had moved not more than one time, as compared with one-half of the high idle land group.
- (3) Eight percent of the high idle land group had moved six times or more, as compared with only 3 percent of the low idle land group.

As a further test of stability, or conversely of mobility, the following formula was used in the study:

$$\frac{(\text{Age} - 20) \times 100}{(\text{Age} - 20) + 1 + \text{moves since 20 years old } \underline{5/}}$$

5/ Inasmuch as this is a measure of the stability of the individual as a farm operator, moves during childhood and the first permanent departure from the parental home are not counted. During an interlude of urban non-agricultural life inter-city, but not intra-city, moves are counted.

One unit has been added to the denominator of the above formula in order to distinguish slightly between farmers who have not moved during varying periods of time. Otherwise, a farmer who had not moved during the first 10 years of his career would have as high an index of stability as a farmer who had not moved for 20 or 30 or more years.

This measure of the relative stability of the groups ranks the farmers on the less eroded land higher than the farmers on the more severely eroded land. The ratings were 91 and 89, respectively (Table 9, p. 10).

Education

The educational status of the farm families on the less eroded land, as measured by number of grades completed in school, was found to be higher than for the families on the more severely eroded land.

Table 6.- Average grade completed by the husbands, wives, and offspring not in school 1/

Item	: : Husbands	: : Wives	: : Male : offspring	: : Female : offspring
All families	6.9	8.4	7.6	8.7
Low idle land group	7.2	9.4	8.0	9.1
High idle land group	6.6	7.5	7.2	8.3

1/ Information available for 114 husbands, 109 wives, 136 male offspring, and 144 female offspring.

Some of the more salient facts in the table are:

- (1) For all families the average grade of school completed by the husbands was $1\frac{1}{2}$ less than the average grade completed by the wives.
- (2) The low idle land group averaged approximately one to two grades more than the high idle land group.
- (3) More difference existed between the two groups of wives than any other, the number of grades completed by the wives in the low idle land group exceeding the number completed by the wives in the high idle land group by almost two grades.

The relative number of the offspring, of the more advanced ages, attending school, was considerably higher in the families on the less eroded land. Twenty-one percent of the offspring 18 - 20 years of age on the less eroded farms were attending school, as compared with 9 percent of the same group on the more severely eroded farms.

The Agricultural Ladder

The opportunities of the rural-farm families to acquire and retain ownership of land may be measured somewhat by ascertaining the changes that have taken place in the tenure status of the farm operators during their farming experience.

On these southern Maryland farms little shifting about on the so-called agricultural ladder has taken place (Table 7). Some of the facts are:

- (1) Although one-third of the farmers have made an improvement in their tenure status, more than three-fifths show no change, and only 3 percent a lower status than their first.
- (2) The climb from laborer to tenant with these families seems to be more difficult than from tenant to owner, since two-fifths of the owners and only one-fifth of the tenants had achieved a status higher than their first.
- (3) A little less than one-fourth of the low idle land group had attained a higher status, as compared with more than two-fifths of the high idle land group. This fact suggests that a larger proportion of the former group inherited their farms, whereas a much larger proportion of the group had as tenants and were able to purchase only the poorer farms.

Table 7.- Percentages of farmers, classified by present tenure status, whose present tenure status is higher than, lower than, or same as first tenure status 1/

Item	Percentage whose present tenure status is -			
	: Number :	Higher than	Same as	Lower than
	: of : : cases :	: first :	: first :	: first :
All families	120	32	65	3
Owners	67	42	58	-
Tenants	53	21	73	6
Low idle land group:				
Total	60	23	77	0
Owners	35	37	63	-
Tenants	25	4	96	0
High idle land group:				
Total	60	42	53	5
Owners	32	47	53	-
Tenants	28	36	53	11

1/ Whether owner, tenant, or farm laborer.

Social Participation

The average family figures for special types of participation during the one year in formal organized groups are shown in Table 8.

Table 8.- Average family figures for special types of participation during one year in formal organized groups

Item	: :Number: : of :cases :	: :Memberships: : per family : in all :organizations	: :Maximum: : attendance : per family : in all :organizations	: :Number of : offices held : per family : in all :organizations	: :Amount of : cash paid : per family : in all :organizations
All families	119 <u>1</u> /	8.2	89	1.2	\$41
Owners	67	7.5	90	1.5	55
Tenants	52	9.3	89	.8	23
Low idle land group:					
Total	60	8.3	91	1.3	45
Owners	35	8.1	91	1.8	62
Tenants	25	8.6	91	.6	21
High idle land group:					
Total	59	8.2	88	1.1	37
Owners	32	6.7	89	1.1	48
Tenants	27	9.8	88	1.0	24

1/ One family, not reporting the information, omitted.

Some of the more noteworthy facts are:

- (1) The number of memberships per family in all organizations was fairly constant in the different idle land groups. However, the size of the low idle land group families was larger by 0.6 of a member.
- (2) The maximum attendance of the most active member in all organizations was slightly higher in the low idle land group.
- (3) Leadership in the organizations, as measured by the number of offices held per family, was slightly more evident in the low idle land group.
- (4) The average amount of cash paid per family to all organizations was approximately \$10 more in the low idle land group than in the high idle land group.

The overwhelming preponderance of payments to religious organizations seems to indicate either that the organized interests of these families are predominantly religious, or that other types of organizations are very weak

in this region. The average amount of cash paid per family to religious organizations was \$36, or seven-eighths of the total paid to all organizations.

Almost all of the small expenditures to occupational and economic organizations were made by the owners.

Certain Indices Applied to the Southern Maryland Group

In order to compare these families more concisely, on the basis of their use of the land, various indices were formulated and applied. As the validity of these indices has not yet been conclusively demonstrated, their use here may be regarded as an experiment in statistical technique. The results are shown in Table 9.

Table 9.- Various indices of family living by percentage of idle land and tenure status

Item	Index of-					
	: Number :	: Gross :	: Level :	: Stability :	: Schooling :	: Social :
	: of cases :	: cash income :	: of living 1/ :	: 2/ :	: 3/ :	: participation 4/ :
All families	120	\$2,298	54	90	69	167
Owners	67	2,501	61	92	78	174
Tenants	53	2,042	45	88	58	160
Low idle land group:						
Total	60	2,583	58	91	72	165
Owners	35	2,848	66	93	83	184
Tenants	25	2,213	47	89	57	145
High idle land group:						
Total	60	2,012	50	89	66	170
Owners	32	2,121	56	91	73	164
Tenants	28	1,881	43	87	58	173

1/ See page 6.

2/ See page 9.

3/ The index of formal school education includes the following 10 groups of assigned values:

1. No school education (10 points)
2. Common school, first and second grades (20 points)
3. Common school, third and fourth grades (30 points)
4. Common school, fifth and sixth grades (40 points)
5. Common school, seventh and eighth grades (50 points)
6. High school, first and second years (60 points)
7. High school, third and fourth years (70 points)
8. College, first and second years (80 points)
9. College, third and fourth years (90 points)
10. Post-graduate schooling (100 points)

This index is readily calculated and gives comparable results in the main. Slight adjustments may have to be made for certain parts of the country where the common-school education is 7 or 9 years.

As may be seen from Table 9, the low idle land groups rank higher than the high idle land groups in each of the indices, with the exception of social participation, which ranked higher in the high idle land group. 6/

Attitudes and Opinions

Twenty-five questions concerning the attitudes and opinions of the informants were included in the schedule for this study. Seventeen of these questions concern their opinions regarding their situation as farmers, and their attitudes toward farming as an occupation. Eight of these questions concern their attitudes toward various governmental agricultural policies.

Table 10 shows the opinion of the farmers in regard to their general status, when compared with the "average" family in the community. Some of the facts are:

- (1) One-third of the low idle land group consider themselves better off than the average family in the community, as compared with one-fifth of the high idle land group.
- (2) Fifteen percent of the high idle land group consider themselves worse off than the average family, as compared with 12 percent of the low idle land group.

6/ The participation of a family in the life of its community may be measured by the number of its memberships in organizations and its attendance at their meetings. Neither can be taken by itself because a family may have many memberships, but rarely attend, or it may have few memberships, but attend frequently. Both of these factors must be related to the size of the family. The youngest members of the family must be excluded; otherwise the social participation of the large families would be underestimated. Consequently, children under 5 years of age are excluded. The number of memberships is divided by the number of family members 5 years of age and over, thus eliminating the third variable, namely, the size of the family.

The total attendance of all the members of the family would be the best measure of attendance. As this is difficult to secure, the attendance at each organization by the member of the family who attended most frequently may be taken as a measure of the family participation. The sum of these most frequent attendances constitutes the average maximum attendance for the family. By multiplying together these two variables, an index of social participation is secured which is calculated as follows: Organized group memberships in family X average maximum family attendance. Family members 5 years of age and over

Table 10.- Percentages of farmers who regard themselves as "better off," "worse off," or about the same as the average family in the community

Item	Percentages who regard themselves as -			
	Number	Better	Average	Worse off
	: of : : cases :	: off :		
All families	119 ^{1/}	25	61	14
Owners	67	37	55	8
Tenants	52	10	69	21
Low idle land group:				
Total	59	32	56	12
Owners	35	46	48	6
Tenants	24	12	67	21
High idle land group:				
Total	60	18	67	15
Owners	32	28	63	9
Tenants	28	7	72	21

^{1/} One family, not reporting this information, omitted.

The majority of the families specified financial condition as the basis of their superior or inferior situation.

Nine-tenths of the 119 farmers reporting the information prefer farming to any other type of occupation. The low idle land group displayed this preference more often than the high idle land group. Only a little more than one-half of these farmers, however, prefer to have their sons follow farming rather than some other occupation. This preference was displayed by one-half of the high idle land group and three-fifths of the low idle land group.

A tabulation of the responses to the question "Do you wish that you had had more schooling?" revealed that few of the farmers were satisfied with the amount of formal education they had received. Four-fifths of the 119 farmers gave an affirmative reply. Very little difference was apparent in the answers of the high and low idle land groups.

More than one-half of the 96 farmers desiring more formal education believed that it would have aided them in the business of farming. One hundred and seventeen of these farmers stipulated how much education they believed their sons should have for farming. Over one-fourth specified grade school, two-fifths high school, and one-fourth a college education. The low idle land group demanded a high-school education for their sons somewhat more frequently than the high idle land group, but was not so insistent in its demand for a college education.

Only about one-fifth of these farmers think they would be better off if their present farms were larger. This opinion is displayed by nearly twice as high a percentage of the low idle land group as of the high idle land group. "The present labor situation" was the usual basis of reasoning when the farmer stated that he did not desire a larger farm. Some expressed the opinion that farm wages were too high, and others that labor was too scarce. The additional capital outlay that would be necessary to operate a larger unit also played an important role in determining opinions the farmers expressed. The opinions of these farmers regarding the effects of their farming practices on the soil are given in Table 11.

Table 11.- Percentages of farmers who think their present farming practices are improving, not affecting, or harming the soil fertility

Item	: Number :		Number who are		
	: of	:	Improving	: Not affecting	: Harming
	: cases	:	soil	: soil	: soil
All families	119 ¹ / ₂		71	23	6
Owners	67		76	16	8
Tenants	52		63	33	4
Low idle					
land group:					
Total	59		73	24	3
Owners	35		83	11	6
Tenants	24		58	42	0
High idle					
land group:					
Total	60		69	23	8
Owners	32		69	22	9
Tenants	28		68	25	7

¹/₂ One family, not reporting this information, omitted.

Some of the facts revealed by this table are:

- (1) About seven-tenths of these farmers think that their present farming practices are improving the soil on their farms.
- (2) Six percent think that they are injuring it.
- (3) As compared with the high idle land group, a larger percentage of the low idle land group think that their present farming practices are improving the soil fertility, and a considerably smaller percentage that they are harming it.

In order to determine the most urgent financial need of these farmers, as measured by their own opinions, the operators were asked what they would do with \$500 if they should inherit that sum of money. Some of the more consistent answers were:

- (1) Nearly one-fourth would spend it for farm and/or home improvement.
- (2) One-fourth would reduce outstanding obligations.
- (3) One-third would save it.

The tenants were more disposed to spend money for immediate purposes, such as living and farm-operating expenses. The owners, on the other hand, tended toward long-term expenditures, such as farm and house improvements or savings. It is significant that less than one-eighth of the tenants stated that they would invest the money in a farm or home.

Attitude Toward Governmental Policies

After being told that farm tenancy had been increasing in the United States, at least until 1935, these farmers were asked whether they thought the Government should do something about it (Table 12). In the

Table 12.- Percentages of farmers thinking the Government should do something about the increase of farm tenancy who make specified suggestions

Item	: Total : number	: Assist : tenants to	:Improve farm: : credit	:Aid only : : the	: All other : suggestions
	:responding:	:become owners:	: facilities	:deserving:	
All families	59	50	20	18	12
Owners	33	44	23	24	9
Tenants	26	58	15	12	15
Low idle land group:					
Total	34	43	21	24	12
Owners	20	38	29	29	4
Tenants	14	50	8	17	25
High idle land group:					
Total	25	59	19	11	11
Owners	13	54	15	15	16
Tenants	12	65	21	7	7

aggregate they were evenly divided on this question, but there was considerable difference between the tenure and the idle land groups. One-half of the farmers who think the Government should do something about the increase of farm tenancy replied that tenants should be assisted to become owners, one-fifth that farm-credit facilities should be improved, and nearly one-fifth that it should "aid only the deserving."

These farmers in southern Maryland were asked whether they favored that part of the Agricultural Conservation program whereby the Government pays farmers for preserving or improving soil fertility. Three-fourths of the farmers were in favor of this program, and nearly one-fourth opposed to it. A large proportion of the farmers favoring this type of assistance gave as a basis of reasoning the fact that the farmers were unable to improve the land without outside aid. The majority opposing the program felt that the Government was paying the farmers for something they should be doing anyway. There was little difference between tenants and owners and between the low idle land and high idle land groups with regard to these opinions.

These farmers were asked their opinions regarding the public purchase of submarginal land in their vicinity in order to remove this land from cultivation and to put it into forests, grazing, or parks. Approx-

Table 13.- Percentages of farmers who favor or do not favor the government purchases of submarginal land

Item	: Number of : cases : reporting	: Attitude toward program		
		: Favorable	: Unfavorable	: Uncertain
All families	119 ^{1/}	73	24	3
Owners	67	76	21	3
Tenants	52	69	29	2
Low idle land group:				
Total	59	78	22	0
Owners	35	83	17	0
Tenants	24	71	29	0
High idle land group:				
Total	60	68	27	5
Owners	32	69	25	6
Tenants	28	68	29	3

^{1/} One family, not reporting this information, omitted.

mately three-fourths favored this policy, and one-fourth were opposed to it (Table 13). There was only a moderate degree of variation between the owners and tenants and the low idle land and high idle land groups in the expression of these opinions. These farmers were also asked, assuming that such public purchases were to take place, whether they would favor the farmers' living on this submarginal land receiving governmental aid in order to get relocated. The same proportion of favorable and unfavorable responses were received to this question - three-fourths favorable, and nearly one-fourth unfavorable.

Summary and Conclusions

The contrasts between the low idle land and high idle land groups indicate that the progressive erosion of the land is a contributory factor in determining many phases of the level of living described in this report.

Many of the differences depicted in the tabulation are more significant between the owners and tenants than between the different idle land groups. Since the purpose of the survey was concerned with land use rather than tenure, emphasis has been placed on this phase in the text, though the tenure breakdown has been carried in all tables where it seemed important. Many differences have been recorded in this report that are considerably less than three times the standard error of the difference. The authors think that the failure to meet this statistical standard is largely compensated for by the fact that the differences are cumulative and sufficiently consistent to justify their inclusion.

The conclusions may be summarized as follows:

- (1) Farm families are larger on the less eroded farms.
- (2) Operators on the more severely eroded farms are older.
- (3) Families on the less eroded farms spend approximately one-fourth more for clothing.
- (4) Families on the less eroded farms spend more for life insurance policies.
- (5) Families on the less eroded farms spend more for reading matter.
- (6) Families on the less eroded farms have better houses, more and a better quality of modern facilities and household equipment.
- (7) The automobile and sewing machine were found to exist in approximately the same proportion in the different groups.
- (8) The families on the more severely eroded farms move more often.
- (9) The number of grades completed in school was higher for husbands, wives, and offspring in the families on the less eroded land.
- (10) More of the offspring on the less eroded farms, 16 years of age and over, were kept in school.

- (11) More of the operators on the less eroded farms had climbed the agricultural ladder. However, nearly twice as many of the operators on the less eroded farms began as owners.
- (12) The families on the less eroded farms were more active in the various organizations of the community. They attended more frequently, held a greater portion of the offices, and contributed more financial aid to the organizations.
- (13) A greater percent of the families on the less eroded land consider themselves "better off," and a smaller percent "worse off" as compared with the "average" family of the community.
- (14) A majority of all the farmers expressed a desire for more formal education, but little difference existed in the answers of the various groups.
- (15) Only about one-fifth of the farmers thought they would be better off with a larger farm. A much larger proportion (almost 2 to 1) of the farmers on the more severely eroded farms desired a larger farm, even though the percent of their tillable land then lying idle was over twice the amount on the less eroded farms.
- (16) A greater proportion of the farmers on the less eroded farms think that their farming practices are improving the soil fertility, and a greater proportion on the more severely eroded farms that their practices are harming it.
- (17) Very little difference existed between the various groups in the attitudes displayed toward various suggested governmental agricultural policies. The attitudes of the group as a whole were:
 - a. Approximately 50 percent favor governmental action concerning the increase of farm tenancy.
 - b. Approximately three-fourths favor the Agricultural Conservation Program of paying farmers to preserve and improve soil fertility, and one-fourth oppose it.
 - c. Approximately three-fourths favor the governmental purchase of certain areas of submarginal land, in order to remove it from cultivation, and one-fourth oppose it.

Standards of Living 7/

"Standards of Living in Four Southern Appalachian Mountain Counties" (16), based upon field interviews with 733 open-country farm families and 83 village non-farm families in two Kentucky counties in the Northeastern Cumberland Plateau and in two North Carolina counties in the Blue Ridge subregion of the Appalachians, presents the following findings and makes comparisons with previous studies of family living in the area:

(1) The average values of living, including the values of all goods and services consumed, were \$662, \$426, and \$798 per family for open-country owners, open-country tenants, and village families; per capita, they were \$143, \$87, and \$210. Few studies of farm families have indicated such low values. (2) Less than one-half of the value of living for the farm families was purchased; 83 percent of that for the village families was purchased. (3) The open-country families produced relatively large proportions of their food on the farms. The owners produced 76 percent; the tenants, 68 percent. (4) Considered together, expenditures for social participation, education and reading absorbed \$20, \$4, and \$36 respectively from the total expenditures of open-country owners and tenants and village families. (5) The open-country families derived only 36 percent of their total cash receipts from the sale of farm products. Thirty-five percent accrued from wages. (6) Of the male heads of 724 open-country families that gave farming as their chief occupation in 1935, the year of the study, 200 (28 percent) were not farming in 1930. One-half of these new farmers had been unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled laborers; 17 percent had been farm laborers; 20 percent had not been gainfully employed; and the remainder were professional men, clerks, and proprietors. (7) Indications are that the new farmers were frequently recruited from persons reporting no change of dwelling from 1930 to 1935. Loss of non-farm employment caused many of these individuals to report themselves as farmers. (8) Open-country owner and tenant and village male heads had completed 6.4, 5.2, and 6.8 grades respectively. The amount of education is positively correlated with total value of family living.

The "Standards of Living of the Residents of Seven Rural Resettlement Communities" (17) have been studied with the view to establishing a starting point from which future attainments may be measured. The resettlement projects studied were Penderlea Homesteads in North Carolina, Cumberland Homesteads in Tennessee, Ashwood Plantation in South Carolina, Skyline Farms in Alabama, Dyess Colony in Arkansas, Ropesville Farms in Texas, and Bosque Farms in New Mexico.

(1) Inasmuch as most of the projects were comparatively new, farm operations were limited. However, families living on projects furnished 45 percent of the total family living as compared with 44 percent for

7/ Complete citations will be found in the bibliography, beginning on page 33.

the families studied prior to resettlement. (2) The cash receipts of families living on the projects averaged \$843 while the average for families studied previous to resettlement was \$586. Families living on the projects received 39 percent of the total cash receipts from wages - principally from employment at construction work on the various projects - and 35 percent in the form of loans from the Government. Families studied previous to resettlement received 26 percent of the total cash receipts from the sale of farm products and 47 percent from wages of the male head or other members of the family. (3) The average amount of investment other than farm for the families living on the projects was \$16 and for the families studied previous to resettlement, \$7. (4) The average number of school grades completed by the male heads ranged from 4.3 for those at Skyline Farms to 9.7 for those at Ropesville. (5) Among the groups living on the projects there was a great variation in the total value of living, ranging from \$532 to \$1,078 respectively for Skyline Farms and Bosque. Among the families studied previous to resettlement the range was more limited - from \$667 for Dyess to \$928 for Penderlea.

An "Analysis of the Organization and Factors Influencing the Returns on 194 Small Tobacco Farms in Puerto Rico, 1935-1936" (101) reveals that the total living earnings for these families averaged \$396, of which \$221 was cash and the remainder furnished. Not including income from labor off the farm, the cash labor income of the average family of 7.9 members was 80 cents per day.

Situation and Prospects of Rural Youth

The extensive "piling up" of surplus youth in rural areas has resulted in the development of a major youth problem, according to the Research Monograph, "Rural Youth: Their Situation and Prospects," (27) by Bruce L. Melvin and Elna N. Smith of the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration.

The labor force of the Nation will be increased by some 2,000,000 rural young people between 1930 and 1940. While some of them will move to cities there will probably still be an increase of over 1,000,000 youth in rural territory by 1940, bringing the total by that time to well over 10,000,000 rural young people.

Youth is an important age of migration and during the decade 1920-1930 some 2,000,000 young people left the farm for the city. Girls left at an earlier age than boys, and more young people left the poor agricultural areas than the better farm lands. In spite of this heavy movement, youth wanting farms at the beginning of the depression far exceeded the number of good farms available. This pressure on the land was particularly heavy in the Southern States and in such poor land areas as the cut-over region around the Great Lakes, and it has increased markedly during the last few years. The situation has been aggravated by the in-

crease in tenancy, the decreased demand for farm laborers, and the trends toward large-scale ownership of land and mechanization of agriculture. Lacking a job, many young people have to remain with their parents, sometimes for extended periods.

In the past, economic security in rural society has been measured chiefly by property ownership, but working for wages is more and more becoming the ultimate goal, and rural territory has developed a class which depends on wages for part or all of its income.

Associated with economic handicaps, the report points out, are those due to the lack of adequate educational facilities. Since areas with the largest proportions of children have the poorest schools, rural youth - especially those on farms - attend school less than urban youth, leave school earlier, and have a higher proportion of retardation. As late as 1930, 5 out of every 100 farm youth were still unable to read and write. Yet, where facilities are available, a large proportion of all rural youth attend school.

The proportion of youth married is greater for both sexes and for all years among rural than urban youth, while a larger proportion of rural-nonfarm than of farm youth are married. Relatively more Negro than white youth are married in all residence groups. Although the depression caused large numbers of urban youth to postpone marriage, it apparently had little marked effect on farm youth in this respect.

Many organizations have developed definite and constructive programs for aiding rural youth and have pointed the way toward what can be done. In addition to such governmental programs as those of Federal agencies, numerous and varied nongovernmental agencies are performing important functions in widening the opportunities and outlook of rural youth. After summarizing the activities of such agencies, however, the authors stress the fact that a concerted attack on the long-time factors responsible for the current widespread destitution and restricted social opportunities of rural youth has yet to be made.

Programs for Rural Youth

A bulletin of the American Youth Commission (72) treats the subject of vocational training for older rural youth, the purpose of which is to bridge the gap between adolescence and adulthood. Several different types of programs now in operation are described.

Trends in the development of short courses in Land Grant Colleges are discussed in an American Youth Commission bulletin. (73) "Although there has been a decline in the total number of colleges offering short courses over the past quarter century (46 in 1923 and 28 at the present time), those which have been maintained or revamped are filling a real need." Short courses in a number of colleges of agriculture are described.

A study "undertaken for the purpose of securing information which might be helpful to the South Carolina Extension Service in providing plans for a more desirable extension program to meet the needs of unmarried rural young people 16 to 25 years of age" (60) reveals that 97 percent of the 638 young people interviewed would like to belong to a group to consider matters of common interest. Nine out of ten expressed a preference for meetings participated in by both young men and young women. The need for a more adequate extension program for out-of-school youth was emphasized by the fact that only 22 percent of those interviewed were members of any organization other than church organizations and only 19 percent were associated with the Extension Service. Discussions of agriculture, homemaking, and vocational guidance and placement were particularly desired by the out-of-school young people, but there was also a demand for a broader program to interest the 45 percent whose choice of a vocation was one other than farming or homemaking.

Farm Labor

The amount of "Seasonal Employment in Agriculture" (25) for both family and hired labor for the type-of-farming areas as well as for the Nation as a whole is presented in graphic form by months in a report of the Works Progress Administration. In addition, graphic descriptions of monthly employment by type of work on typical farms is included.

"Trends in Employment in Agriculture: 1900-36" (24) have been downward, as indicated by a decline of 9 percent for family workers and a decline of 13 percent for hired laborers; but output per person engaged in agriculture increased over one-third during the period, according to a report of the Works Progress Administration. The influence of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the drought decreased the output per person in 1936, but during the period as a whole greatest gains in output per person were in areas where the rates of mechanization were greatest and where the number of horses declined most.

During 1937 more tractors were sold for domestic use than were on farms in 1920. (68) The greatest degree of mechanization has been attained in the North Central States, but the highest rates of increase in mechanization are at the present time to be found in the South where Mississippi leads, and in the Southwest where Texas has more tractors than all 8 Old South cotton States combined. Few areas are not affected by this increased mechanization which not only deprives many farm laborers of employment and displaces tenants and even owners, but also threatens the family farm. That "we can develop some efficient and stable institutions which will control the machine and give us the same social and human values which are enjoyed under a more simple agrarian organization" seems improbable.

Suburbanization

The second bulletin in the series of "Studies of Suburbanization in Connecticut, Norwich: An Industrial Part-time Farming Area" (40) is based upon historical records and a house-to-house survey of 925 families made in 1935 and 1936. The survey data indicate that three out of every five householders moved to the area at some time subsequent to marriage. About three-fifths of these newcomers settled in villages and two-fifths in open-country districts. Over one-half of the families moving to rural Norwich since 1920 gave economic reasons for moving, the most important of these being, obtaining employment in local industries, opportunities to do part-time farming, and cheaper rent or taxes. Many also indicated that they had young children and desired to get out of the city where there would be more room.

About one-half of those who moved to the area were doing some farming. Families with older children more often did some farming than did childless couples or couples with very young children.

The houses to which the migrants moved were relatively more spacious, possessed more modern conveniences, were more frequently single detached houses, and were more frequently owned by the residents than the homes from which the families migrated.

While 9 out of 10 families held membership in some church, few belonged to other organizations. In general the families having membership in the largest number of organizations had the highest educational and occupational status, and more frequently owned their homes, subscribed to local newspapers, and had lived a considerable time in the neighborhood.

Differential Mobility in Iowa

"Differential Mobility Within the Rural Population in 18 Iowa Townships, 1928 to 1935" (47) is the title of a study based upon field interviews with 2,384 village and open-country households. Among the significant findings reported are the following:

(1) Young people between the ages of 16 and 25 years made relatively more shifts from rural areas to other rural or to urban areas than did other persons. (2) Although young men migrated farther from home than did young women, both groups moved short distances and in most instances located in Iowa or adjacent states. Young women left home earlier than men. (3) Young people whose highest educational attainment was high school left home in smaller proportion than either those who had entered college or those who had failed to enter high school. (4) There was a tendency for families to live exclusively either in the village or in the country. During the 7-year period over 90 percent of the open-country families had lived in the open country only, and 83 percent of the

village families had lived in the village only. (5) Tenure status is the most important single factor associated with mobility of farm households in Iowa. The size of farm and age of farm operator appears to affect mobility only as they are associated with tenure status. (6) The depression delayed but did not stop the youth from leaving the parental home. From the study there was no proof of the existence of a back-to-the-parental-home movement. If there was such, the participants had left home again by 1935. (7) The proportion of offspring leaving the parental home was not related to the relief status of the head of the household.

Rural Relief

"Relief in Rural Iowa"(44) from October 1936 to October 1937 tended to fluctuate narrowly around the present level. Data from 9 samples indicated that during this period county-care cases did not change greatly. Excluding Works Progress Administration cases, unemployment relief decreased approximately one-third, but persons receiving old-age assistance increased approximately 40 percent. For the period 1932-1936 the 10 counties in the State having large cities expended over \$40 per person for relief as compared with approximately \$20 in the 9 "rural and small city" sample counties. Also for the State as a whole counties with large urban populations expended more per capita for relief than the more rural counties, a condition different from that in some States with poorer farm land. The increase in relief expenditures from 1920 to 1937 is presented graphically with an account of the changes in administering agencies.

The "Magnitude of the Emergency Relief Program in Rural Virginia 1933-1935"(69) in terms of percentage of population on relief was less than any State except for Vermont and Delaware. Notwithstanding the fact that per-capita farm income for Virginia (\$162) in 1930 was less than one-half that for the Nation (\$309), and annual manufacturing industrial wages for Virginia (\$818) less than three-fifths those for the Nation (\$1,425), for the period under consideration only 7 percent of the Virginia population as compared with 13 percent of the population of the Nation was on relief. During January 1935 the average monthly relief benefits per relief family in Virginia (\$14) were less than half those of the Nation (\$30). In June 1935 one person in nine was on relief in Virginia towns and cities as compared with one in thirteen in rural areas.

Land Tenure and Soil Conservation

The "problem of soil conservation is basically one of the people's attitudes toward the land ... and ... the various forces obstructing conservation have their roots in the institutions and customs which grew out of the exploitive attitude characteristic of a pioneer economy."(48) Tenancy as such does not lead to excessive soil exploitation. Tenants.

who are related to landlords or tenants with stock-share leases are found to be using conservational land-use patterns similar to those of owners. On the other hand, tenants unrelated to landlords or tenants farming under crop-share leases follow practices which of necessity result in exploitation and soil erosion.

Also "exploitive land use is both cause and effect of heavy mortgage debts - a cause, since it is partly responsible for the over-valuation and over-encumbrance of the rolling and erodible lands; an effect, because it is the result of current pressure for immediate cash income."

In general farmers with attitudes favorable to the conservation of the land tend to be operating under conditions allowing for a maximum of stability of tenure. They are not overburdened with debt; and, since farming is to them a way of life, their level of living in terms of housing is relatively high. Those owners who were previously tenants related to landlords climbed to ownership on essentially different ladders. There were fewer rungs symbolic of the farm-laborer status and the ascent to ownership was quicker. Slightly less than one-fifth of the present tenants had previously achieved ownership but most of these had been thrown back down the ladder by the depression.

From 1900 to 1935 there was an increase in the number of "Washington Farm Trade Centers," (70) amounting to 461. Considering a trade center as any hamlet, village, town, or city which is listed in Dun and Bradstreet's Reference Book of ratings, it has been found that about 40 percent of the trade-center population of the State lives in unincorporated places of 0-2,500 population. Trade centers of from 250 to 2,500 population include only 48 percent of the rural non-farm population of the State. Compared with the United States as a whole, Washington State has a much smaller percentage of its rural non-farm population living in trade centers, these percentages being 70 and 55 respectively.

During the 20th century, trade-center population increased 200 percent but the number of trade centers increased only 15 percent. Smaller trade centers are of relatively less importance since the passage of the horse-and-buggy days, but 61 percent of all trade centers in the State had less than 5 business units.

Rural Libraries

"A Survey of Public Library Service in Oregon" (57) indicates that facilities for rural areas are relatively deficient. Rural people make less use of available library service than do urban people. The number of books lent per capita for home reading "by 36 libraries in the smaller rural communities was 6.8, though 13 approached or exceeded the standard of 10," set by the American Library Association. Circulation

per capita for the libraries in cities with population of 2,500 to 4,000 was 8.

Rural Sociology

Within the "Field of Research in Rural Sociology" (14) lie the following categories of investigation:

- I. Population
- II. Social Organization or Social Structure
- III. Social Psychology
- IV. Social Ecology
- V. Anthropological Aspects
- VI. Social Change
- VII. Social Pathology

A committee of the Rural Sociological Society, composed of C. E. Lively, Dwight Sanderson, and Carl C. Taylor, has issued a report describing the accomplishments of rural sociological research in these areas during the last 25 years, listing 187 studies as examples. The types of research in progress in 1937 are included as well as an appraisal of future needs and suggestions for timely projects. "The major purpose of this report is to point out where rural sociology may make a contribution to the practical problems of agriculture and rural life, at the same time maintaining its scientific integrity and purpose. It attempts to appraise the entire scope and purpose of rural sociology as a science and as a method to improve rural life."

Personality Development

"The Relation of Certain Factors in Farm Family Life to Personality Development in Adolescents" (52) was studied for 695 Nebraska farm boys and girls in small-town high schools. A battery of 9 personality scales, the Otis intelligence test, and a questionnaire requesting information concerning home environment were administered. In the order of their significance the presence of the following four items were found to be important in determining the development of the personality of the boy: (1) An attitude of welcome on the part of parents toward the child's friend in the home, (2) frequently to have enjoyable times together in the home as a family group, (3) infrequent punishments, (4) an affectionate relationship between the boy and his mother. In the order of significance the following four items were found to be important in determining the development of the girls' personalities: (1) An attitude of welcome on the part of parents toward the child's friends in the home, (2) infrequent punishment, (3) nothing in the behavior of the mother which she particularly dislikes, (4) a minimum of participation of the mother in the work outside the home.

Migration During the Depression

The reduction in the number of migrants during depression years is illustrated in data given by the Census of Cincinnati, taken in 1935. At the time of the Census there were more persons who had moved to the city 5 to 6 years before than 4 to 5 or 3 to 4 years before. Apparently more persons had moved in during 1929, 1928, 1927, or 1926 than during 1930 or 1931. However, the number who had moved in during the year preceding the Census and remaining there was less than the number who moved in during the second year preceding the Census. Considerably fewer Kentuckians had moved in between 1930 and 1935 than between 1925 and 1930. A similar situation is found among white persons who came from other States.

White Migrants to Cincinnati Living There in 1935, by Months of
Residence in the City

Months lived in city	:	Male	:	Female
0 - 11.9		1,368		1,610
12 - 23.9		2,483		2,884
24 - 35.9		2,143		2,484
36 - 47.9		1,696		2,104
48 - 59.9		1,624		1,894
60 - 71.9		2,041		2,432
72 - 83.9		2,067		2,452
84 - 95.9		2,149		2,418
96 - 107.9		2,330		2,655
108 - 119.9		1,799		2,142
120 and over		26,965		30,905
Unknown		1,505		1,761
Total		48,170		55,741

Migrants to Cincinnati are at a disadvantage compared with persons born in Cincinnati with reference to educational achievements and occupational status. Thirty-five percent of the Cincinnati-born had left school before they were 16 years old, but among the migrants from mountain areas the percentage was 44. Among the Cincinnati-born white males 25 to 44 years old, 5 percent were physical laborers, but 21 percent were in this group. However, about one-fourth of each group were skilled craftsmen and about one-tenth of each group were unemployed. Less than 2 percent of those born in mountain areas, but 11 percent of the Cincinnati-born were professional workers. Other factors relating to adjustment of migrants to cities are found in Chapter X of "The Population of Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1935: A Summary and Interpretation of the Regional Census of Hamilton County, Ohio." (56)

EXTENSION REPORTS

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Director Baker

In the death of H. J. Baker, Director of the Extension Service in New Jersey, rural sociologists lose a staunch friend. For several years, in addresses, in conferences, and in conversations, he has been pointing out the need for broadened perspectives, especially social perspectives in extension work. Recognizing needs in this area, he approved the appointment of an extension sociologist in 1935 and later appointed a rural sociologist to the position of State leader of 4-H Club work. He welcomed the counsel of rural sociology on many questions of administrative policy. Director Baker died on January 6, 1939, with an acute heart attack.

Planning for Extension Work

A short statement of the Wisconsin Rural Life Extension Program for the Rural Sociology Department of the College of Agriculture has recently been issued. This statement has been prepared out of the background of a series of meetings being held by the extension administrative and specialist staff of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture around the theme "Planning for Extension Work." The following are set forth as the objectives for the Rural Life Program:

- (1) Help make possible in rural areas a more satisfactory living. This includes:
 - a. Opportunities for individual and group expression
 - b. Means of cultural development
 - c. Constructive use of leisure time
 - d. Better understanding of the process of consumption
- (2) Aid in bringing about a better understanding on the part of rural people of vital social and economic problems of the day.
- (3) Encourage better coordination of individual and group effort as a means of achieving objectives.

The forms of assistance suggested as being available through the project for developing rural-life programs are: (1) analyzing local needs, (2) planning with existing groups and agencies, (3) developing leaders, (4) furnishing materials, and (5) assisting with special events. The statement gives specific suggestions for using each of these forms of assistance.

Group discussions, drama and pageantry, music, social recreation, art, and community organizations are suggested as means of helping to accomplish the objectives.

Extension Activities in Illinois

A new development has been the Community Relation Seminars held on a State-wide basis. Three were held on the problem of "Rural School Reorganization," with 25 State-wide organizations and agencies represented.

Leader Training Institutes in Tennessee

Roy Shelton of the National Recreation Association and G. L. Herrington of the University of Tennessee have conducted 4 Leader Training Institutes of 4 days each among older youth of the State. In addition, Mr. Herrington has completed 15 courses of 2 hours each for older farm youth, club leaders, physical-education teachers from public schools, and recreation leaders for the Works Progress Administration, and National Youth Administration.

DIVISIONAL AND STATE NOTES

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Division Notes

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics is conducting a statistical analysis to determine the extent of relationship between the level of living, measured in terms of the total value of all goods consumed by the family, and the absence or presence of, or value of census items. An attempt is being made to ascertain what several key items in the total among all family expenditures could best be used in an index of the level of living. Also, the advisability of including other items is being studied.

This study is exploratory because few of the correlation studies of family budgets have sought to ascertain what groups of items tend to cling together in clusters in the statistical sense, and what items could best be used to represent the various categories. Other correlation studies have dealt primarily with interrelationships among the major categories and have sought to measure the influence of and to partial out the influence of different major factors. Some of the preliminary results indicate high relationships between the total value of family living and the following factors: replacement value of the dwelling, an index constructed from items found in the census, income, and the various major categories in the budgets. Also, the cost of clothing was found to be highly related to expenditure for footwear for the whole family, the head of the family, and expenditure for underwear for the whole family. Some significant correlations have been found between the total value of food consumed and expenditure for fresh fruits.

Several thousand standard of living schedules collected in various sections of the country during the year 1935 are to be used in the analysis. In the process of the study thousands of variables will be paired on plot diagrams, and hundreds of correlation coefficients calculated.

Maurice Parmelee was elected Chairman of the Section of Political Sociology of the American Sociological Society for the year 1938-39.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued a mimeographed release summarizing some of the available data on migration to and from the Drought States and to the Far Western States. Data are given for California, Oregon, Washington, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Movement of farm population, 1910-35, and net interstate migration, 1920-30, in 10 Great Plains States and 4 Far Western States are included.

For the third year, Cooperative Agreements have been made between the Division and State Agricultural Experiment Stations for the State Estimates of Farm Population. The States in which this project is being carried on this year are Washington, Louisiana, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

Federal Agencies

A "Survey of Rural Unemployed Not Receiving Public Aid" is being made by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration, to supplement the unmet-needs study made in January and July 1938. It is intended to ascertain the extent and character of the need among families containing unemployed workers who are not receiving public assistance to determine the amount and sources of income of such families, to determine the characteristics of workers, and to measure the duration of their unemployment. Supplementary information asked for will give a general indication of types of expenditures and dietary problems. Counties in Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Colorado, and Washington are included.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has revised its farm-employment figures back to 1910. Employment data which were previously reported as a number of workers per 100 farms have been converted to thousands of persons employed. These data will be published in the revised form henceforth.

The release dated January 13, 1939, gives figures on the number of persons employed on the first of each month, United States, January 1, 1930 - January 1, 1939. Figures show family workers and hired workers separately. The release also includes wage rates for 1909-38, and by quarters, 1923-38. Wage rates as of January 1, 1939, are given by States. The indexes of wages and of supply and demand of farm labor are continued.

The U. S. Employment Service of the U. S. Department of Labor is issuing current reports on Migrants who have entered the State of California through Border Check Stations, from "Drought" States and "All" States, seeking manual employment. These reports are prepared by: U. S. Farm Placement Service, Los Angeles, California.

A bulletin summarizing the first four years of the plan for cooperative rural research has been issued by the Division of Social Research, Works Progress Administration. It covers the organization, scope, and general results of the program.

The National Emergency Council has issued a series of reports showing Federal expenditures, March 4, 1933, through June 30, 1938. Consolidated and detailed State reports show loans made, loans insured, and expenditures of various Federal agencies. Another series shows by counties the estimated Federal benefits accrued during the same period, including loans, grants, expenditures of various agencies, loans insured, reductions in indebtedness through farm-debt adjustment, and so forth.

The estimated population of continental United States and outlying territories and possessions, as of July 1, 1938, was 130,215,000 according to a recent release of the Bureau of the Census.

Among recent releases of the Bureau of the Census are Vital Statistics Special Reports, Vol. 7:

- No. 9 - Number of Deaths (exclusive of stillbirths), by Race and by Rural and Urban Areas, 1937
- No. 10 - Number of Live Births, by Race and by Urban and Rural Areas in Each State, 1937
- No. 11 - Revised Standard Birth, Death, and Stillbirth Certificates
- No. 12 - Infant Mortality, by Race and by Urban and Rural Areas in Each State, 1937

State Notes

Howard Beers will assume his duties as Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Kentucky on February 15. He will be engaged principally in giving advanced courses and in research in rural sociology. Mr. Beers has been Rural Sociologist and State 4-H Club Leader at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Arthur R. Mangus has been appointed Professor of Rural Sociology in the Department of Rural Economics at Ohio State University effective April 1, 1939. In this position, Mr. Mangus will be engaged in teaching and research in the field of rural sociology, succeeding C. E. Lively who went to the University of Missouri on July 1, 1938. Mr. Mangus has recently been associated with the Division of Social Research of the Works Progress Administration in Washington.

A study of the types, and their effectiveness, of organizations in which farm people participate is being started under the direction of D. E. Lindstrom in Illinois.

A study of the human element in soil conservation is under way at the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. A number of indices are to be correlated, including size of farms, soil rating, index of change in soil fertility, cash balance less labor off farm per acre, return on investments, attitude toward farm life, education of operator and homemaker, personal capability of operator and homemaker, living expenses, source of information for planning farm practices, participation in organization activities, mobility, and reasons for taking up farming.

W. A. Anderson has been granted sabbatical leave from Cornell University for the first semester, 1939-40, and will spend much of his time studying rural life in Sweden.

The Board of Trustees of Cornell University has announced the establishment of the Henry Strong Denison Graduate Fellowships in Agriculture, in memory of Henry Strong Denison, a graduate of Cornell University in the class of 1905. Three fellowships with an annual stipend of \$1,000 each will be awarded in the fields of the plant sciences, animal sciences, and social sciences and agricultural engineering, for the purpose of encouraging young graduate students "who are especially gifted and qualified to carry on research work in the science of agriculture." In awarding the fellowships, preference will be given to those applicants who expect to complete the requirements for the Ph.D. degree and who appear most promising from the standpoint of ability to conduct research. Blank forms of applications may be obtained from the Dean of the Graduate School and all applications must be filed in the Office of the Graduate School before March 1, 1939.

Other Notes

Carl C. Taylor was elected President of the Rural Sociological Society at the annual meeting in Detroit, December 28-30, 1938. Other officers elected for the current year were: R. C. Smith, Vice President; T. Lynn Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Dwight Sanderson and T. J. Woofter, Jr., members of the Executive Committee.

The National Rural Forum organized by the American Country Life Association will meet at State College, Pennsylvania, August 30-September 2, 1939. The topic for discussion will be: "What's Ahead for Rural America?"

A synoptic table of the main periodical statistics of wages in agriculture, showing for 22 counties the available data on number of agricultural workers and the amount and type of wages, the periodicity of the data and approximate delay of publication is given in "Statistics of Hours and Wages in the Principal Mining and Manufacturing Industries, Including Building and Construction, and in Agriculture," Sixth Item on the Agenda, Geneva International Labour Office, 24th Session, Report VI, Geneva, 1938.

More than 300 young people representing 20 different States attended the annual meeting of the Youth Section of the American Country Life Association held at Lexington, Kentucky, November 2-5, 1938.

The Youth Section is a national coordinating agency of local and State groups, including the older 4-H, FFA Alumnae, Student Grange, Junior Farm Bureau, Alpha Zeta, Home Economics, and Rural Life groups and associations. It aims to promote discussion of rural-life problems, to disseminate information for a better understanding and appreciation of country life, and to work for improvement in rural areas. The discussions at Lexington centered about "Major Trends and Issues of Rural Life," dealing with mechanization, migration of population, part-time farming, tenancy, conservation, and government. Other group discussions dealt with cooperation as a way out, farming as a way of life, and better uses for leisure. The discussions were supplemented by exhibits and sessions devoted to learning by doing.

The officers for the coming year include: President - Fred J. Giesler, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota; Secretary - Margaret Andrew, Iowa Rural Young People's Assembly, care of Farm Bureau, Nevada, Iowa.

The 18th International Congress of Agriculture is scheduled to be held in Dresden, Germany, June 6-12, 1939. The general secretary is F. Sohn, Hafenplatz 4, Berlin, SW 11, Germany. Section VIII is to be devoted to Rural Life and the Work of the Countrywoman, and will include the role of peasant culture as well as practical measures being taken to encourage peasant culture and peasant traditions.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS
Reviewed and Received
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Federal

- (1) "To Hold this Soil," by Russell Lord, Misc. Pub. No. 321, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Aug. 1938, 122 pp.
- (2) "References on Agriculture in the Life of the Nation," by Everett E. Edwards, Bibliographical Contributions, No. 4, Bur. of Agr. Econ. Library, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Jan. 1939, 73 pp.
- (3) "Study Materials on Consumer Education: A Selected Bibliography," Consumers' Counsel Division, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Nov. 1938, 4 pp.
- (4) "Publications on Soil Conservation and Related Subjects," Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Nov. 15, 1938, 9 pp. (Revised.)
- (5) "The Land Utilization Program for the Northern Great Plains," Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1938, 15 pp.
- (6) "List of Publications," available from the Division of Information, FSA, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Oct. 1, 1938, 3 pp.
- (7) "References on American Colonial Agriculture," by Everett E. Edwards, Bibliographical Contributions, No. 33, U. S. Dept. of Agr. Library, Washington, D. C., Sept. 1938, 101 pp.
- (8) "State Trade Barriers," a short list of references, Bur. of Agr. Econ. Library, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Oct. 12, 1938, 4 pp.
- (9) "Bibliography on Soil Erosion and Soil and Water Conservation," by Stanley H. Gaines, Misc. Pub. No. 312, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1938, 651 pp.
- (10) "Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services - Telephone Rates to Farmers in the United States, 1910-14, 1924-29, 1932, and 1935-36," Income Parity for Agriculture, Part III, Section 3, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Dec. 1938, 15 pp.
- (11) "Farm Family Living," Agricultural Outlook Charts, 1939, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938, 23 pp.
- (12) "Outlook for Farm Family Living, 1939," Misc. Pub. 332, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Nov. 1938, 6 pp.
- (13) "Report of Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1938," by A. G. Black, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C.

- (14) "The Field of Research in Rural Sociology," prepared by a committee of the Rural Sociological Society of America and the Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938, 47 pp.
- (15) "Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services - Medical Service Rates to Farmers," Income Parity for Agriculture, Part III, Section 1, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Aug. 1938, 27 pp.
- (16) "Standards of Living in Four Southern Appalachian Mountain Counties," by C. P. Loomis and L. S. Dodson, Soc. Res. Rept. No. X, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938, 59 pp.
- (17) "Standards of Living of the Residents of Seven Rural Resettlement Communities," by C. P. Loomis and Dwight M. Davidson, Jr., Soc. Res. Rept. No. XI, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938, 93 pp.
- (18) "Rural Electrification on the March," Rural Electrification Administration, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1938, 73 pp.
- (19) "The Federal Government and Education," Advisory Committee on Education, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1938, 31 pp.
- (20) "Tabular Summary of Statistics of Public Assistance," Bur. Rept. No. 1, Bur. of Res. and Stat., Social Security Board, Washington, D. C., 1937, 52 pp.
- (21) "A Plan for a Case Census of Recipients of Public Assistance," by Margaret C. Klem, Bur. of Res. and Stat. Rept. No. 2, Social Security Board, Washington, D. C., March 1938, 92 pp.
- (22) "Age of WPA Workers, November, 1937," by R. Nassimbene, Div. of Soc. Res., WPA, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1938, 20 pp.
- (23) "Survey of Workers Separated from WPA Employment in Nine Areas, 1937," by Verl E. Roberts, Div. of Soc. Res., WPA, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1938, 22 pp.
- (24) "Trends in Employment in Agriculture, 1909-36," by Eldon E. Shaw and John A. Hopkins, Rept. No. A-8, National Research Project, WPA, Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 1938, 163 pp.
- (25) "Seasonal Employment in Agriculture," by Benjamin J. Free, WPA, Washington, D. C., Sept. 1938, 58 pp.
- (26) "Inventory: An Appraisal of Results of the Works Progress Administration," Washington, D. C., 1933, 100 pp.
- (27) "Rural Youth: Their Situation and Prospects," by Bruce L. Melvin and Elna N. Smith, Res. Mono. XV, Div. of Soc. Res., WPA, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1938, 167 pp.

- (28) "Informational Hand Book," Rept. No. 6, National Emergency Council, Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938, 39 pp.
- (29) "Activities of the Federal Emergency Agencies, 1933-1938," Rept. No. 7, National Emergency Council, Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938, 87 pp.
- (30) "Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States: A Selected List of Recent Writings," compiled by Anne L. Baden, U. S. Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., 1938, 72 pp.
- (31) "Organizing a Farmers' Cooperative," by S. D. Sanders, Farm Credit Adm., C-108, Washington, D. C., 1938, 42 pp.
- (32) "Farming," Vocational Studies, No. 5, U. S. National Youth Administration, Chicago, Illinois, Mar. 1, 1938, 49 pp.
- (33) "Directory of Federal Youth-Serving Agencies," a registrar compiled by Atha C. Jordan for the Youth Coordinating Council, NYA, Washington, D. C., May 1938, 6 pp.
- (34) "Report on the Agricultural Implement and Machinery Industry," House Document No. 702, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D. C., 1938, 1176 pp.
- (35) "Report of the Advisory Committee on Education," Message from the President of the United States, Washington, D. C., Feb. 1938, 148 pp.
- (36) "Agricultural Cooperatives in Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil," by Fabio Luz Filho, Pan-American Union, Div. of Agricultural Cooperation, No. 2, Washington, D. C., Oct. 1938.
- (37) "Library Service," by Carleton B. Joeckel, Staff Study No. 11, prepared for the Advisory Committee on Education, Washington, D. C., 1938, 107 pp.

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- (38) "Agricultural Cooperative Organizations in California," Mimeo. Rept. 64, Cal. Agr. Exp. Sta., Berkeley, 1938, 18 pp.

Colorado

- (39) "Landlord and Tenant Income in Colorado," by R. T. Burdick, Bull. 451, Colo. Agr. Exp. Sta., Fort Collins, Oct. 1938, 54 pp.

Connecticut

- (40) "Norwich: An Industrial Part-Time Farming Area," by N. L. Whetten and R. F. Field, Studies of Suburbanization in Connecticut, No. 2, Bull. 226, Storrs Agr. Exp. Sta., Connecticut State College, Storrs, May 1938, 121 pp.

Florida

(41) "Sixth Census of the State of Florida, 1935," Dept. of Agr., Tallahassee, 1938, 162 pp.

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(42) "Eureka: A Community Survey," by the Dept. of Sociology, Eureka College, Eureka, Ill., 1938, 34 pp.

(43) "Our Farm Tenancy Problems," by H. C. M. Case and Joseph Ackerman, Ill. Agr. Coll., Urbana, 1938, 17 pp.

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(44) "Relief in Rural Iowa," by R. E. Wakeley and A. H. Anderson, Bull. 377, Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta., Ames, Sept. 1938.

(45) "Report and Recommendations of the Farm Tenancy Committee," Iowa State Planning Board, Des Moines, Oct. 1938, 63 pp.

(46) "Community Livestock Auctions in Iowa," by Sam H. Thompson and Knute Bjorka, Bull. 376, Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta., Ames, Sept. 1938, 343 pp.

(47) "Differential Mobility Within the Rural Population in 18 Iowa Townships, 1928 to 1935," by Ray E. Wakeley, Bull. 249, Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta., Ames, Dec. 1938, 318 pp.

(48) "Socio-Economic Phases of Soil Conservation in the Tarkio Creek Area," by Rainer Schickele and John P. Himmel, Bull. 241, Iowa Agr. Exp. Sta., Ames, Oct. 1938, 51 pp.

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(49) "Social Welfare Costs in 1938," Pub. No. 70, Kansas State Board of Social Welfare, Kansas, Feb. 1938, 9 pp.

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(50) "Agricultural Land Ratings and the Farmers' Levels of Living," by Harold A. Gibbard, The Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 3, Michigan State College, Agr. Exp. Sta., East Lansing, Feb. 1938, pp. 127-194.

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(51) "A Survey of Cooperative Creameries in Watonwan County, 1937," by Wm. H. Dankers and E. F. Koller, Minn. Agr. Ext. Ser. Bull. 54, Univ. Farm, St. Paul, Nov. 1938, 26 pp.

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(52) "The Relation of Certain Factors in Farm Family Life to Personality Development in Adolescents," by Leland H. Stott, Bull. 106, Nebr. Agr. Exp. Sta., Lincoln, Oct. 1938, 46 pp.

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(53) "Types of Farming in New York," by R. S. Beck, Bull. 704, Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, 1938, 71 pp.

(54) "The Influence of the Central Rural School on Community Organization," by Eugene T. Stromberg, Bull. 699, Agr. Exp. Sta., Ithaca, June 1938, 39 pp.

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(55) "Development of Legislation in Ohio That Relates to Agriculture," by H. R. Moore, Mimeo. Bull. 112, Ohio Agr. Exp. Sta., Columbus, 1938, 72 pp.

(56) "Studies in Economic Security," Cincinnati Employment Center, Cincinnati, 1937.

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(58) "Rural Social Agencies in Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Planning, Vol. 3, No. 4, State Planning Board, Harrisburg, Aug. 1938.

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(59) "A Study of Land Utilization in Newport and Bristol Counties, Rhode Island," by Basil E. Gilbert, Bull. 268, R. I. Agr. Exp. Sta., Kingston, July 1938, 40 pp.

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(60) "Situations, Problems, and Interests of Unmarried Rural Young People 16-25 Years of Age - South Carolina: Survey of Six Counties, 1937," by Dan Lewis, Barnard D. Joy, and Theo Vaughan, Ext. Serv. Circ. 293, Clemson Agr. Coll., Clemson, Nov. 1938, 37 pp.

(61) "Some Economic Characteristics of Owner-Operated Farms in South Carolina," by G. H. Aull, Bull. 316, S. Car. Agr. Exp. Sta., Clemson, Oct. 1938, 31 pp.

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(62) "Ownership of Farm Land in South Dakota, January 1, 1938," S. D. State Planning Board, Brookings, Sept. 1, 1938, 68 pp.

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(63) "Rural Credit in Tennessee, 1923," by C. E. Allred, et al., Mono. 82, Tenn. Agr. Exp. Sta., Knoxville, 1938, 48 pp.

(64) "Human and Physical Resources of Tennessee," Chs. XXVII and XXVIII, Education: Public and Private; Illiteracy, Reading Habits, and Libraries, by C. E. Allred, S. W. Atkins, and F. M. Fitzgerald, Rur. Res. Mono. No. 81, Coll. of Agr., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Oct. 20, 1938.

(65) "Human and Physical Resources of Tennessee," Chs. XXIX and XXX, Health and Facilities; Welfare Work, Public and Private, by C. E. Allred, S. W. Atkins, and R. G. Milk, Rur. Res. Mono. No. 83, Coll. of Agr., Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, Nov. 15, 1938.

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(68) "The Social Effects of Recent Trends in Mechanization of Agriculture," by C. Horace Hamilton, Progress Rept. No. 579, Tex. Agr. Exp. Sta., College Station, Dec. 1938, 14 pp.

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(69) "Magnitude of the Emergency Relief Program Rural Virginia 1933-1935," by B. L. Hummel and C. G. Bennett, Rural Relief Ser. No. 1, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Nov. 1937.

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(70) "Washington Farm Trade Centers, 1900-1935," by Paul H. Landis, Bull. 360, Rural Sociology Series in Population, No. 3, State College of Washington, Agr. Exp. Sta., Pullman, July, 1938.

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(71) "The Family Living Derived From the Farm," by R. H. Fletcher, Bull. 31, W. Va. Agr. Exp. Sta., Morgantown, June 1938, 68 pp.

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- (72) "Vocational Training for Older Rural Youth," by Agnes M. Boynton and E. L. Kirkpatrick, American Youth Commission, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., Oct. 15, 1938.
- (73) "Short Courses in Colleges of Agriculture," by E. L. Kirkpatrick, American Youth Commission, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., Nov. 15, 1938.
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- (75) "Rural Catholic Action," Diocesan Directors' Series No. 1, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C., 1936, 61 pp.
- (76) "Rural Catholic Action," Diocesan Directors' Series No. 2, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C., 1937, 49 pp.
- (77) "Our Rural Proletariat," by Rev. Edgar Schmiedeler, Social Action Series No. 11, National Catholic Welfare Conference, The Paulist Press, New York, March 1938, 31 pp.
- (78) "A Tour of Nova Scotia Cooperatives," Report of Conference-Tour, St. Francis Xavier Univ., New York, 1937, 48 pp.
- (79) "Full Recovery or Stagnation?" by Alvin Harvey Hansen, W. W. Norton and Co., Inc., New York, 1938, 350 pp.
- (80) "The County Worker's Job: Publicity by Way of the Barn Door," by Josephine Strode, Survey Midmonthly, Vol. 74, No. 11, New York, 1938, pp. 345-347.
- (81) "Seven Years of Unemployment and Relief in New Jersey, 1930-1936," by Douglas H. MacNeil, prepared for the Comm. on Social Security, Social Science Research Council, New York, 1938, 318 pp.
- (82) "Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel," by C. Vann Woodward, The MacMillan Co., New York, 1938.
- (83) "The People and the Land," Proceedings of the Twentieth American Country Life Conference, Manhattan, Kansas, October 14-16, 1937, Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1938, 124 pp.
- (84) "The Library in the TVA Adult Education Program," by John Chancellor, American Library Association, Chicago, Ill., 1937, 75 pp.
- (85) "Little Known Facts About the Amish and Mennonites," by Ammon Monroe Aurand, Harrisburg, Pa., 1938, 30 pp.
- (86) "Needed Population Research," by P. K. Whelpton, the Science Press Printing Co., Lancaster, Pa., 1938, 3 pp.

- (87) "Country Living, Plus and Minus," by Charles Morrow Wilson, Stephen Daye Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1938, 232 pp.
- (88) "Cooperatives, Today and Tomorrow: A Canadian Survey," by Geo. S. Mooney, prepared for the Survey Committee, Montreal, 1938, 189 pp.
- (89) "Food Planning for Four Hundred Millions," by Radhakamal Mukerjee, Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1938, 267 pp.
- (90) Report of proceedings held at the Empire Exhibition, Glasgow, Scotland, on July 18, 19, and 20, 1938, Imperial conference on agricultural cooperation, P. S. King & Son, Ltd., London, 1938, 250 pp.
- (91) "Rural Welfare in India," by C. F. Strickland, Oxford Univ., London, 1936, 54 pp.
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- (94) "Farmers and Consumer Cooperation," published by Kooperativt Förbundet, Stockholm, Sweden, 1938.
- (95) "Deep Furrows: Pioneer Life in the Collective in Palestine," by Avraham Ben-Shalom, Hashomer Hatzair Organization, 1937, 303 pp.
- (96) "Report on the Inquiry into the Expenditure of European Families in Certain Urban Areas, 1936," Minister of the Interior, Union of South Africa, Pretoria, 1937, 83 pp.
- (97) "Frauendorfer, S. v. Internationale bibliographie des agrarökonomischen Schrifttums. Zwölfte Folge. Berichte über Landwirtschaft, Issued by (Germany) Reichs- und Pr. Ministerium für Ernährung u. Landwirtschaft. Published by P. Parey, Berlin, 1938.
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wp-1

FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 15, 1939

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RESEARCH REPORTS

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A STUDY OF MOBILITY AND LEVELS OF LIVING AMONG NEGRO SHARECROPPER AND WAGE-LABORER FAMILIES OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEYS

By O. E. Leonard and C. P. Loomis

Some of the country's poorest and most disadvantaged people live on the plantations and farms of the southern river valleys. This is largely the result of the prevailing agricultural system which accords them their low economic and social status with its accompanying low level of living. Reports ^{1/} have described this low level of living - in terms of food, shelter, and clothing - which is incompatible with the essentials of healthy living. High mobility and inadequate educational, recreational, and religious facilities are associated with prevalent sickness, high mortality rates, and poorly integrated community life. In the areas surveyed the most disadvantaged families are those of the sharecroppers and wage laborers who know little of economic security. The findings of this study indicate that neither of the two groups carries any considerable pecuniary advantage over the other and that the classification of a family may vary from year to year, according to current plans of the manager or the operator of the plantation.

The Method of Study and Sample

The data were collected in February and March of 1938.^{2/} Approximately 306 Negro families (two or more members) were visited, and a questionnaire that covered the calendar year 1937 was filled out by means of a personal interview. The families studied lived in the three counties, Jefferson, Phillips, and Miller, located in the valleys of the Arkansas, Mississippi, and Red Rivers respectively. An attempt was made to secure a normal geographical distribution of the families. No more than four sharecropper and wage-laborer families were visited on any one plantation, and the plantations were so selected that they were distributed uniformly over the entire county.

In terms of cash income, this group of Negro families is one of the most underprivileged farm groups of the Nation. The total appraised value of living (cash income plus fuel, food, and house rent furnished by the plantation) was, on the average, \$425 for a family of 3.7 persons. (See Table 6, p. 8 and Table 8, p. 9.) This is \$1 less than the total value of living of 245 tenant families

^{1/} Taylor, Carl C., Wheeler, Helen W., and Kirkpatrick, E. L., Disadvantaged Classes in American Agriculture, Soc. Res. Rept. No. VIII, USDA, Apr. 1938; Blalock, H. W., Plantation Operations of Landlords and Tenants in Arkansas, Bull. No. 339, Agr. Exp. Sta., Univ. of Ark., Fayetteville, May 1937; and White, Max R., Ensminger, Douglas, and Gregory, Cecil L., Rich Land - Poor People, FSA Res. Rept. No. 1, Indianapolis, Jan. 1938.

^{2/} Arkansas Experiment Station and U S. Dept. of Agr. cooperating.

in four Appalachian counties with an average of 4.9 members, and \$78 more than for a group of Indian-Mexican farm-laborer families in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico with 4.9 members. For a similar group of Negro families (of all tenure groups) in southeastern Missouri the median income was \$251, whereas in the present study only 125 of the 306 families had incomes of \$250 or less. 3/

What Are the Consequences of Mobility?

Not all of the so-called "disadvantaged" groups in America are highly mobile. 4/ The peoples of the Appalachian and Ozark Highlands and the Indian-Mexican groups of the Southwest, which are often thought of as disadvantaged because of their low levels of living in terms of material goods, are relatively immobile. With the exception of nomadic tribes, any group living at a given low material level (other things being equal) is more disadvantaged and must endure a less satisfying existence if it is highly mobile geographically than would be the case if the system or conditions under which it lived and worked made for more voluntary stability of residence. Of course, consideration must be given to cases where a move may be economically justified. On the other hand, moves undertaken for the purpose of economic betterment may often prove entirely illusory. In such instances, as well as in moves arising from a vague unrest or insecurity of tenure, the migrant tends to lose financially as well as socially. In either case, adjustments must be made both by the individual and the new group of which he becomes, at least superficially, a part. In case the adjustments cannot be made satisfactorily, both stand to lose: the individual family by being socially isolated; the absorbing group by a decrease in homogeneity and integration among its members.

In order to bring to a sharp focus the differences in the levels of living of the families characterized by varying degrees of mobility, all families included in the present study which had not been working as sharecroppers or laborers before 1931 were omitted. The remaining 236 families were then classified into four groups: those which had not moved and those which had moved one, two, or three times and more since 1931. 5/

The Material Level of Living and Mobility

Not only do the sharecropper and wage-laborer families in these Southern river valleys fail to lay up savings, but the more they move the more poorly they live. Usually the total net cash income is required for living expenses. This being the case, we can appraise the level of living of our

3/ Loomis, C. P., and Dodson, L. S., Standards of Living in Four Southern Appalachian Mountain Counties, Soc. Res. Rept. No. X, Oct. 1938; Loomis, C. P., and Leonard, O. E., Standards of Living in an Indian-Mexican Village and on a Reclamation Project, Soc. Res. Rept. No. XIV, USDA, Aug. 1938; and White, Max R., Ensminger, Douglas, and Gregory, Cecil L., op. cit.

4/ Taylor, Carl C., Wheeler, Helen W., and Kirkpatrick, E. L., op. cit.

5/ In this study a move signifies a change of plantations. Intra-plantation shifts are not counted as moves.

four groups from Table 1, using as criteria the net cash income, home-produced and home-consumed foods, and such other perquisites as fuel and house rent furnished by the plantation operator. The estimated value of living for all families included in the study was \$440 and for the two groups representing lowest and highest mobility, \$457 and \$394, or a difference of \$63. Thus, in terms of estimated total values, it is plainly evident that high mobility is associated with lower levels of living.

The greatest deficiency in diets among these families could be overcome by a higher consumption of animal and vegetable products. Certainly there could be no more practical approach to the problem of raising the level of living of these people than establishing such conditions and offering such incentives as would result in the production of more products on the farm for home consumption. Our data indicate that if such an objective is to be accomplished,

Table 1.- Various family and economic factors as related to number of times moved since 1931 1/

Item	: All : families:	: Number of moves since 1931			
		None	1	2	3 or more
Number of families	236	59	66	51	60
Averages:					
Size of family	3.8	3.6	4.0	4.2	3.6
Age of head of family	43.6	45.0	42.7	44.6	42.2
Appraised value of living	\$440	\$457	\$471	\$437	\$394
Value of home-use products <u>2/</u>	75	82	82	81	57
Value of perquisites <u>3/</u>	63	68	64	60	60
Net cash income	302	307	325	296	277
Value of livestock reported	28	27	32	32	21
Amount of advances and owed					
at settling time	151	178	162	138	122
Cash settlement	60	45	63	75	58
Percentage of families					
holding office	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1

1/ Those who began farming after 1931 are omitted to make mobility data comparable. Because of this omission, some figures in this table are not comparable with those in Table 8, p. 9.

2/ Garden, dairy, and meat products produced and consumed at home.

3/ Includes fuel and rent equivalent of house. For rent equivalent the informant estimated what a fair rent value of the house would be. If the informant failed to give an estimate, the average value of \$3 per month was credited, this sum being the average for those reporting the figure.

mobility should be taken into consideration. For the four groups ranging from low to high mobility, the values of food products produced and consumed at home were \$82, \$82, \$81, and \$57 (Table 1), indicating a negative correlation between these two factors. In case of dairy products the groups of families which had moved most produced and consumed only about one-half as much as did the most stable group, these values being \$15 and \$26 respectively (Table 2). The difference for the two groups, with respect to the value of meat products produced and consumed, was not so great (\$27 and \$34 respectively), but it is significant. This also holds for value of garden products produced and consumed at home, values for these same two groups being \$15 and \$22 respectively. As would be expected, conditions of high mobility are not compatible with the growing of gardens, the raising of chickens and pigs, and least of all the possession and milking of cows (Table 3). In this region the characteristic diet for the lower tenure groups is meat (largely "sow belly") molasses, and meal. It is thus evident that the greater the mobility, the greater the role of the "three M's," the ration which all dieticians agree leaves its consumers with little or no resistance to various diseases and general ill health.

Table 2.- Value of various home-use products, by number of times moved since 1931 1/

Item	:	:	Number of moves since 1931					
	: All	:						
	: families:	None	:	1	:	2	:	3 or more
Number of families	236	59	96	51	60			
Average value:								
All home-use products	\$76	\$82	\$82	\$81	\$57			
Dairy products <u>2/</u>	25	26	30	28	15			
Garden products	19	22	20	18	15			
Meat products	32	34	32	35	27			
Perquisites <u>3/</u>	63	68	64	60	60			
Home-use products plus perquisites	139	150	146	141	117			

1/ See footnote 1, Table 1.

2/ Includes milk, butter, and eggs.

3/ See footnote 3, Table 1.

Table 3.- Value of livestock in possession January 1, 1938, by number of times moved since 1931 1/

Item	: All : families:	: Number of moves since 1931			
		None	: 1	: 2	: 3 or more
Number of families	236	59	66	51	60
Total value of livestock	\$28	\$27	\$32	\$32	\$21
Cattle	14	14	18	15	8
Hogs	8	7	8	11	8
Poultry	6	6	C	6	5

1/ See footnote 1, Table 1.

The Non-Material Elements in the Level of Living and Mobility

If it is true that "man does not live by bread alone," one might expect to find something in the lives of these poorer classes which would at least partially compensate for the low economic level of living just described.

Previous observation and study indicate that religion plays an important role in the lives of the people of this area and that participation in religious organizations provides not only spiritual values but also opportunities for these families to contact other members of their community and race and to talk of National, State, and local happenings, as well as the possibilities of a successful crop for the current year.

Attendance at religious organizations represents almost completely the contacts of these families with organized groups during the year. Only slightly more than 5 percent of all husbands and wives failed to attend church some time during the year of study. When all church meetings are combined, the attendance of these classes compares favorably with that of other rural groups. A group of some 500 candidates for resettlement, most of whom were white tenant farmers who were selected for the Dyess Colony resettlement project, did not surpass the group in this respect. 6/ The average annual attendance of all the wives at all church meetings included in the present study was 52; that of the wives of the group of white settler families selected for Dyess Colony was only 42. For husbands comparable attendance figures for the two groups were 34 and 39 respectively, and for children 15 years of age and over, 57 and 22. Approxi-

6/ C. P. Loomis, Social Relationships and Institutions in Seven New Rural Communities, Soc. Res. Rept. No. XVIII, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C. (Forthcoming publication.)

mately the same relations are found to exist when these Negro families are compared with the residents of seven resettlement communities, a reclamation project, and four control groups scattered throughout the United States. Only a highly religious ethnic group excelled the families of the present study. 7/

Only 2 percent of the wives and 6 percent of the husbands attended any other than organizations affiliated with the church during the year. These percentages are lower than for all groups in the study of seven resettlement, one reclamation, and four control groups. 8/ The only group with which they compare favorably in this respect is that composed of the Indian-Mexican wage-laborer families of New Mexico, where 33 of the 37 families studied failed to report attendance at any organization other than church. 9/

Table 4.- Attendance of family members at religious organizations during 1937, by number of times moved since 1931 1/

Members of family	: Percentages: : reporting : : attendance:	Annual attendance				
		All : families:	Number of moves since 1931			
		None	1	2	3 or more	
Husbands	93	34	40	31	34	31
Wives	95	52	55	47	44	45
Offspring:						
Under 15 years	82	45	46	55	39	39
15 years and over	96	57	62	61	50	51

1/ See footnote 1, Table 1.

Does mobility affect participation in formal organizations adversely? Table 4 indicates that there is a negative correlation between geographical mobility and social participation. For all members of the families the groups which had not moved since 1931 averaged from one-half to almost one more time per month in church meetings than did the groups which had moved three or more times since 1931. Attendance at non-religious organizations showed the same trend.

7/ Ibid.

8/ Ibid.

9/ Loomis, C. P., and Leonard, O. E., op. cit.

Why Do These Families Move?

If families which move have a lower material as well as non-material level of living, what induces them to move? The results of the answers to this question are shown in Table 5. Apparently the opportunity for economic betterment loomed foremost as a lure to moving. Specifically, this usually meant better land, more land, or larger furnishings. Thirty-six percent of the families reported this as having been a reason for undertaking one or more moves during their independent farming experience. Twelve percent gave no other reason than "just wanted to move," 11 percent had had difficulties with their landlords, 10 percent reported loss of job, and 17 percent moved because of a change in operator or the operator's methods of farming. Only 5 percent said that they had moved to improve living and/or social conditions.

Table 5.- Number and percentages of families reporting various reasons for moving, 1937

Item	: All families		: Wage laborers		: Sharecroppers	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Number of families	265	-	122	-	143	-
Total moves reported	591	100.0	266	100.0	325	100.0
Reasons given for moving:						
Change of operator or of operator's farming methods	102	17.3	44	16.5	58	17.9
Chance for economic betterment	213	36.0	98	36.9	115	35.4
To improve living and/or social conditions	28	4.7	12	4.5	16	4.9
Physical or family misfortune	52	8.8	20	7.5	32	9.8
Disagreement with landlord	67	11.3	29	10.9	38	11.7
Loss of job	60	10.2	28	10.5	32	9.8
Just wanted to move	69	11.7	35	13.2	34	10.5

Tenure Status and the Level of Living

Material Level of Living. The status of the wage laborer is commonly thought of as the lowest or first rung in the American agricultural ladder, and that of the sharecropper as the second in the upward climb to ownership. However, it is common knowledge that in these Southern river valleys and some other regions, the labor force may on a given plantation be classified as wage laborers in one census report and as sharecroppers in another. The price of cotton,

Table 6.- Certain specified family characteristics, by tenure status

Tenure	Number of families	Averages				Age of family head
		Persons	Workers	Equivalent		
		per family	per family	workers per family		
Total	306	3.7	2.8	2.6		40.6
Wage laborers	141	3.5	3.0	2.5		38.9
Sharecroppers	165	3.8	2.7	2.8		42.0

Table 7.- Percentages of families that have spent one or more years at specified tenure levels

Tenure	Number of families	Years of farming experience	Percentage of reporting occupation- al shift	Percentage of families that have spent 1 or more years as			
				Wage	Share-		
				Owner	Renter	laborer	cropper
Total	236	18.7	65.3	3.0	22.0	63.5	90.7
Wage laborers	106	18.4	81.1	2.8	16.0	100.0	79.2
Sharecroppers	130	18.9	52.3	3.1	26.9	33.8	100.0

and recently the agricultural adjustment programs, substantially influence the production plans of the plantation operator for a given year. It may involve a change in his crops (which in the South means a change in the proportion of cultivable acres planted to cotton) and consequently shifts in his labor force, which is usually furnished by wage laborers or sharecroppers or both. It may seem to the operator more profitable one year to plant a large proportion of his cultivable acres to "wage cotton," and the following year a large proportion to "cropper cotton." ^{10/} Since the tenure status of the laborer must follow this decision of the operator, it may be seen that the status of a family (providing it remains on the plantation) may shift from year to year. Consequently, we should not expect great differences in the characteristics of the two groups. In certain aspects, differences such as size of family, age, and years of farming experience of the operators are not great (Tables 6 and 7). However, in other characteristics consistent differences are indicated. The sharecropper families apparently have somewhat higher appraised values of living (Table 8). This difference is due almost entirely to the fact that sharecroppers consume more goods from their gardens and livestock, their average net

^{10/} The operator's cotton is locally known as "wage cotton," and the sharecropper's cotton as "cropper cotton."

cash incomes being almost the same. Also, the average value of the livestock owned by the sharecroppers was almost twice that of the wage laborers. 11/

Table 8.- Appraised value of family living, value of livestock, and number of days worked per family during 1937, by tenure groups

		Appraised value of living			Average	Value of
Families	Number	Total	Average	Value of home-	number days	livestock
	of	net	net cash	use products	worked per	possessed
	families:	income	income	plus perquisites	family in	January 1
		1/	1/	1/	1937 2/	1938
Total	306	\$425	\$294	\$131	298	\$25
Wage laborers	141	399	293	106	266	17
Sharecroppers	165	448	296	152	324	32

1/ Perquisites include wood burned as fuel and rent equivalent of house.

2/ Total number of person-days worked by all members of the family.

Since all advances are loaned against the family's "cotton patch," the figure for "advances and owed at settling time" is much higher for the share-cropper, \$141, and \$14 (Table 9).

Such advances (furnishings) are very important in the lives of these families. They are undoubtedly one of the reasons why a sharecropper status is generally preferred to that of a wage laborer and, according to the statements of the field enumerators who worked in the area, is a most important factor in promoting satisfaction between the plantation operator and his labor.

Non-Material Level of Living. In respect to participation in formal social organizations as an index, the sharecropper's non-material level of living is higher than that of the wage laborer. This holds true generally for average frequency of attendance and the proportion of individuals attending any meeting or holding office.

Size of Family and Level of Living. When the sharecroppers, as well as the wage laborers, are classified into two groups (one including the families of two and three members and another including the families with more than three members), several significant factors appear. The larger families of sharecroppers operate larger acreages than the smaller sharecropper families, have the larger incomes, and owe the most at settling time (Table 9). They also consumed home-produced goods of greater value, rated on a family basis, than was the case for the smaller families. However, the value of living was less for large families in the case of both sharecropper and wage-laborer families.

11/ Wage workers in this study include the families with no cotton or a nominal acreage of cotton and receiving as much as two-thirds of their cash income from wage work.

Table 9.- Average size of family as related to various social and economic factors, by tenure status

Item	Sharecroppers			Wage laborers		
	Small		Large	Small		Large
	Total:families 1/	families 2/	Total:families 2/	families 1/	families 2/	families 2/
Number of families	165	99	66	141	94	47
Size of family	3.6	2.5	5.7	3.5	2.4	5.7
Age of family head	42.0	41.3	43.0	38.9	39.4	38.0
Amount of advances and owed at settling time	\$141	\$116	\$180	\$14	\$15	\$13
Number of acres of cotton	14.9	12.6	18.3	3.3	3.1	3.8
Value of home-use products plus perquisites 3/	\$152	\$145	\$162	\$106	\$98	\$123
Net cash income 4/	296	254	358	293	267	344
Appraised total value of living	448	399	520	399	365	467

1/ Families with two and three members.

2/ Families with four or more members.

3/ Perquisites include value of wood used for fuel and rent equivalent of house.

4/ Includes increase in livestock over January 1, 1937.

Health and Population Increases

The report "Rich Land -- Poor People" shows that the lives of the people in a similar area are open to the ravages of disease. 12/ Inadequate housing, malnutrition, and the almost total lack of scientific medical care has resulted in poor bodily resistance to many diseases prevalent in the areas covered by this survey. One of the many consequences of these conditions may be a lowered reproduction rate. The findings of this study indicate a low birth rate among these rural Negro families. For 324 women aged 20 - 44, there were only 157 children under 5 years of age. This gives a ratio of 484 children under 5 per 1,000 women aged 20 - 44. According to the techniques relied upon by various population experts, this indicates that these families not only are failing to make up the deficit of children in the urban population, but are no more than reproducing themselves. Although the sample is too small to be conclusive, it may be stated that the families included in the study were each interviewed by a skilled enumerator, and thus the chance for underenumeration was reduced to a minimum. Since the proportions of women at the various age classes between 20 and 44 are comparable to those in the census figures, the indication is further substantiated that there actually exists a low reproduction rate in the area (Table 10).

12/ White, Max R., Ensminger, Douglas, and Gregory, Cecil L., op. cit.

Table 10.- Fertility ratio of rural farm colored families for State and counties of survey, 1937

Item	: women, age : : 20-44 :	Number of : children : under 5 :	Number of : Fertility : ratio
State <u>1/</u>	58,101	37,817	650.9
Counties of survey <u>1/</u>	9,185	5,338	581.2
Families of survey <u>2/</u>	324	157	484.5

1/ Fifteenth Census, unpublished data.

2/ Includes data taken from approximately 150 similar schedules taken in Mississippi and Chicot Counties, Arkansas, in 1939.

Summary

This paper is an attempt to portray some of the factors that accompanied the low level of living of 306 Negro sharecropper and wage-laborer families of the Arkansas River Valleys. The data were obtained in the early part of 1938 and cover the calendar year 1937. Some of the more noteworthy findings were:

(1) No considerable financial difference is in evidence between the sharecropper and wage-laborer families. Net cash incomes were approximately equal (\$296 and \$293); however, the value of home-use products was approximately \$50 higher for the sharecropper families.

(2) Number of times moved is apparently closely linked with value of living. As compared with families that had made 3 or more moves, those which had not moved had a higher appraised value of living (\$394 and \$457), consumed more home-grown products (\$57 and \$82), and had more livestock (\$21 and \$27).

(3) Attendance at the community social organizations decreased with an increase in the number of times moved. Husbands, wives, children under 15, and children over 15, of the non-moving group attended the community organizations more than did the individuals of families which moved 3 times and over.

(4) The reasons given for moving, in the order of greatest frequency, were: (a) chance for economic betterment, (b) change of operator or operator's methods of farming, (c) just wanted to move, (d) disagreement with landlord, (e) loss of job, (f) physical or family misfortune, and (g) to improve living and/or social conditions.

(5) Families of the survey were found to have a relatively low birth rate compared with other rural Negro farm groups.

Seven Lean Years

In "Seven Lean Years" (106) the authors have attempted to synthesize the largest body of first-hand case-history material in existence today, and in addition have given orientation to the problems raised in the whole agricultural scene. They have done this because of their conviction that the human elements are as basic to rural reconstruction as are the problems of production, prices, and markets, and because the human side of the picture has been too frequently left out of consideration. They have "tried to make plain the causes of rural poverty and its implications in the complex pattern of our national life," with the purpose in mind of showing how important to the national welfare are positive programs of agrarian and social reform, in order that misery and want will not accumulate again in the future to the same extent as in the past.

Access to valuable, systematic records of farm families over the period of the depression has been possible because of the authors' positions in the Division of Research of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration, devoted to rural sociological research. Much assistance has been given also by the cooperation of other agencies and by rural sociologists at the colleges of agriculture throughout the country.

The prime significance of this little volume and the timeliness of its appearance now are due to the fact that the complete American agricultural scene is appraised in terms of human needs. When the depression developed and what the authors have called the "Seven Lean Years" took their toll in human distress and misery, the occasion arose for investigating what had previously been the neglected aspects of American rural life. The result has been a greater volume of research during the last five years in the field of rural sociology than had been accomplished in all previous time. The findings of this research have been summarized in this volume, not in any categorical, but in a synthetic, thoroughgoing fashion, and the significance of the research findings have been interpreted in terms of "the reconstruction of rural life which should prevent the recurrence of needless distress."

Carl C. Taylor

Readjustments of Agricultural Tenure in Ireland

There is not so much excitement just at this time about farm tenancy as there was 3 years ago when national legislation was being proposed for the alleviation of increasing tenancy. Now that we have a national farm-tenant purchase program we can and should study the experience, in this field, of other nations with other than propagandic purposes. This is what Elizabeth R. Hooker of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has done in "Readjustments of Agricultural Tenure in Ireland."

In 8 chapters she reports the experience of Ireland as that nation wrestled with the problems of "The reform of landlord-tenant relations;" "The transformation of tenants into owners;" "Special work for the congested areas;" "Provisions of holding for men with too little land or no land;" and "Aid to rural laborers." In 2 other chapters, the first and last, she traces the "Historical Antecedents of the Tenure Situation (in Ireland) in 1870," and makes "Final Considerations and Queries." The chapter on "Historical Antecedents" is of primary interest not because American farm tenancy has in any way, at least thus far, repeated the history of Ireland, but because it depicts the low status to which agriculture and the agricultural population fell before systematic reforms were instituted and because it sets the stage for understanding why the story of the next eight chapters was written in Irish agricultural history and what that story was. In the final chapter, the author makes an honest appraisal of lessons which we can learn from Ireland's experiments and experience. She lists the similarities and differences between the two nations and makes some comparison with the experience in Denmark, which brings her contribution to a practical conclusion.

It is because 56 years of attempt at reform in Ireland have changed the scene from 97 percent of all farmers as tenants in 1870 to only 3 percent of the agricultural land in the hands of tenants in 1926 that the detailed facts presented in this book constitute more than a body of statistics and suggest that its findings should be read and pondered carefully by those who have little faith in farm-tenant reform in the United States. This is not to infer that the author paints an unfaithful picture of the ups and downs of Ireland's farm tenant reforms. She does not. This picture will be found in detail in chapters 2 to 9. It is to say that the final chapter threads through the various and sometimes uncoordinated segments of this 2-generation tenure-reform movement and carefully appraises its value to us in thinking through our newly initiated movement of land-use adjustment, tenant purchase, rehabilitation, and rural-housing program.

Carl C. Taylor

Community Organization 1/

"Influence of Drought and Depression on a Rural Community" (3) is a case study in Haskell County, Kansas, of the influence of drought cycles on social and economic life in the Great Plains. Since the settlement of the county beginning in 1885, marked deficiencies of rainfall have occurred in 1887, 1889, 1893-97, 1899, 1901, 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913, 1916-17, 1924, 1926, and 1932-36. Although the latter drought was the worst in the history of the county, it was characterized by less emigration, less disruption of schools and other community agencies, and less interruption of social and economic life generally. This is to be accounted for by such Federal aid as farm loans, relief grants, assistance by the Farm Security Administration, WPA and NYA projects, and AAA benefit payments. During the droughts of the 1880's and 1890's, Haskell County had been almost depopulated by migration of distressed settlers.

The first State aid given in 1889 to drought sufferers in the county was in the form of payments of \$1 per acre to farmers, made by the State for each acre of their own land to be plowed and for establishing section lines. County aid for paupers was granted during the crop failure in 1887 shortly after the county was organized. Direct Federal aid appeared first in 1918-19 when seed and feed loans were made on a small scale.

The sources of the population of the county were chiefly Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Iowa. These and other States together with some foreign countries furnished a population accustomed to intensive farming. Such cultural backgrounds plus the 160-acre homestead pattern made adjustments difficult. The school of experience has forced the enlargement of the units and brought about some adjustments, but the increase in non-resident, or "suit-case," farmers and tenancy are real problems in an area where close attention must be given to farming techniques in order to prevent erosion. An area 6 miles square in which field interviews were made furnished the basis for intensive study and analysis. Tables from a Farm Security Administration study of living levels, a description of attitudes, and some recommendations are included.

"Social Relationships and Institutions in an Established Rurban Community, South Holland, Illinois," (4) have withstood the impact of urbanization. Church and family ties are responsible for the ability of this village to retain its rural atmosphere in spite of its nearness (3 miles) to Chicago. Some of the phases of city life which the village refuses to accept are real-estate subdivisions, commercial amusements, golf courses, Sunday amusements, and saloons. The study shows that South Holland, one of the 43 towns in South Cook County, is the only one relatively unaffected by urban influences.

With its population made up largely of descendants of Dutch settlers who came to the section in 1847-49, the village has clung to its Dutch heritage. The forms of its most abiding institutions - the family, the church, the school, and all economic endeavor - are deeply rooted in the culture of the Netherlands. The emigration of these Dutch Calvinists followed religious persecution which forced a search for religious freedom.

1/ Complete citations will be found in the bibliography, beginning on page 28.

Four family groups in the village today comprise more than one-half of the population. Community solidarity and integration are the rule and family disorganization is the exception. Despite the community's strong stand against the ways of the city, the young people are adopting urban customs and are speaking English instead of Dutch. "Probably three more generations will have expired before South Holland loses so much of its culture identity that it is submerged beneath the blanket of urbanism and industry that now covers that territory.

Farm Labor

"Farm Labor Conditions in Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Monmouth Counties, New Jersey, April-May, 1936" (1) are revealed in a study of one-fourth of the farms in the counties, most of which were dairy, truck, and general farms. The chief increase in number of workers during the harvest season was made up of hired laborers which increased from the 924 during the slack season to 3,100 during the rush period, or by 235 percent. More than 1,500 laborers were interviewed: one-third were relatives of their employers; three-fifths were unmarried; 17 out of 20 were white; and 15 out of 16 were males.

"Migratory Casual Workers in New Mexico" (55) are for the most part employed in cotton, broomcorn, and green-pea fields. The 235 households from which interviews were secured reported a median annual earning of \$344 for unattached households, and \$461 for family groups of between four and five members. The principal mode of transportation of unattached workers was "hitchhiking"; of family households, personally owned automobiles. Of the 108 households which had been migrants during all of 1937, 15 percent received relief; of the 127 households which had been migrants only part of the year, 30 percent had received relief. One-third of all household heads had been born in Texas, about one-fourth in Oklahoma, and slightly over one-seventh in Arkansas.

"Social Problems in Agriculture" (103) is a publication containing the agenda and reports prepared by the International Labour Office and a digest of the proceedings and other reports of the first meeting of the Permanent Agricultural Committee held in Geneva in 1938. Among the subjects accorded special consideration were conditions and regulations of hours of work, holidays with pay, child labor, and wages for the countries of the world.

It is reported that in the world there are some 865,000,000 persons "gainfully employed." Of these 550,000,000 persons are "gainfully employed" in agriculture. "Thus agriculture represents more than 60 percent of the economic activities of mankind." However, "since not more than about 15 percent of those engaged in agriculture are wage-paid employees, the welfare of the smaller farm operator is of outstanding importance." Whereas there had previously been the tendency to view such agriculturists as share tenants, and sharecroppers as tenants, there is now a growing tendency to classify these groups with paid laborers and as such they become subject to social legislation for the improvement of employment and working conditions.

In some countries there is reported a rural exodus resulting in a farm-labor shortage. As agriculture employs young labor more than most other industries, it feels the effect of the declining birth rate more rapidly than any other occupation. Some countries reported that it was a lack of rural exodus that was the problem, created by increased mechanization, population pressure, or both.

Relief

The increasing importance of the Social Security Program in meeting relief needs in rural and town areas is emphasized in a report "Five Years of Rural Relief" (21) released by the Division of Social Research of the WPA. The study is based on a survey of 385 representative counties and townships in 36 States and covers monthly expenditures and case loads from 1932 through 1936 for five major types of aid, namely: public general assistance; public veterans' assistance; public aid to the aged, to the blind, and to dependent children; Resettlement emergency grants; and private assistance. For the five years, expenditures for these types of assistance totaled more than \$1,200,000,000, rising steadily from about \$80,000,000 in 1932 to almost \$400,000,000 in 1935. There was a drop of almost 50 percent in total expenditures from 1935 to 1936.

During the first four years of the period surveyed, public general assistance was the most important type of relief, mounting to more than nine-tenths of the total expenditures in 1934. Expenditures for public aid to the aged, to the blind, and to dependent children received a tremendous impetus in 1936 as a result of the Federal Social Security Act, which made funds for these groups available to the States. In 1932 aid to dependent children was by far the most important of the three types, but by 1936 aid to the aged had increased to the point where it represented 85 percent of all expenditures. Amounts for aid to the blind increased slowly throughout the 5-year period. The number of cases receiving aid to the aged, to the blind, and to dependent children rose so rapidly as a result of the Social Security Program that the average monthly case load for the three types combined increased more than 700 percent from 1932 to 1936. In 1936 the average monthly case load was close to half a million.

Resettlement emergency grants were initiated in November 1935, reached their peak expenditure the following January, then declined rapidly through July, after which the drought caused an increased demand. The major part of the expenditures for the emergency grant program was in nine Great Plains States, which had not yet recovered from former drought years when they were again desolated in 1936. The number of cases assisted by Resettlement emergency grants increased or declined with the fluctuations in farm distress. Private relief was the least important type of assistance. Average monthly benefits per case for public general assistance rose from a low of \$9.50 in 1933 to a high of \$16.20 in 1935, declining in 1936 with the cessation of Federal funds for general relief. The effect of funds provided under the Social Security Program was seen in the fact that the highest average benefits to the aged, to the blind, and to dependent children were reported in the closing months of 1936.

Depression and drought against a background of poor soil, low wages, meager education, and depleted forests and mines created the unprecedented relief problem in rural areas of recent years, according to a study of "Changing Aspects of Rural Relief," (22) prepared by A. R. Mangus of the Division of Research of the WPA. This study presents the detailed results of the most extensive field survey of rural areas which has ever been undertaken. A complete analysis is made of thousands of case records of relief agencies in representative counties and townships of 32 States in various agricultural regions.

About 2,000,000 cases, including nearly 16 percent of all rural persons, received relief in rural areas in January 1935, the peak month for the rural relief load, but this figure represents less than two-thirds of the total number of rural households that have received relief since 1933.

Heavy relief loads throughout the period that the Federal Emergency Relief Administration was operating were found in the rural regions most dependent on non-agricultural sources for incomes. When employment in lumbering and mining industries dwindled under the combined influence of technological improvements, depleted resources, and depression, these farmers were unable to make a living. Drought caused a sharp increase in relief needs in the Wheat and Ranching Areas in the West and the Western Cotton Area of Oklahoma and Texas in the fall of 1934. Case loads in these areas fell in 1935 as other agencies became effective. Rural relief loads were always comparatively low in such relatively prosperous farming regions as the Corn Belt and the Hay and Dairy Area, bordering the Cut-Over Area around the Great Lakes.

In finding employment many of the workers were handicapped by age, lack of experience, or limited education. Workers who were heads of rural relief households were 40 years of age on the average. More than one-tenth of them were women. Of the heads of households nearly one-tenth had never gone to school or had not finished the first grade. Nearly one-fourth had had no schooling or had completed less than four grades.

Many of the families had arrived fairly recently in the counties where they were receiving relief, and more of these newcomers than of the older residents were unemployed. More than one-fourth of all heads of relief cases in the counties surveyed in 1935 had moved to these counties since 1925 and only a little more than one-third were lifelong residents of the survey counties. The depression appeared responsible for part of these movements among families that had moved to the open country.

Each worker had an average of more than two dependents, including children, aged persons, homemakers, students, and the disabled. Two-thirds of the rural relief households contained children under 16 years of age, averaging about three to a household, and nearly one-fifth of the households contained aged persons over 64 years of age, averaging one to a household. Only one-fifth of the households had neither young nor old dependents.

From one-fifth to one-third or more of all farm families in most sections of the Great Plains have been forced to apply for relief in recent years. In some counties the proportion has risen to 80 or 90 percent, according to the report, "Farming Hazards in the Drought Area," (23) which has recently been published by the WPA. While rural relief loads have been heaviest in areas most severely affected by drought, the financial plight of most farmers has by no means been caused entirely by drought conditions.

Heavy mortgage indebtedness, unpaid feed and seed loans, mounting tax delinquencies, repeated crop failures, small farms, and increasing tenancy had all contributed to the economic insecurity of the farmers interviewed. During recent dry years from two-fifths to three-fourths of the cash receipts of farmers in the Northern Great Plains Counties came from Government expenditures in the form of production-control payments, emergency livestock purchases, or relief grants. In addition many farmers obtained Government crop and feed loans. Crop sales provided little or no cash receipts. That the precarious situation of the farmers has not been due to recent droughts alone is indicated by the fact that from 30 to 46 percent reported they had suffered financial losses since they had begun to farm in the area.

Farm incomes were distressingly low during the drought years in the sample counties in the Central Great Plains. From two-fifths to three-fourths of the cash receipts of farmers in this area came directly or indirectly from Government sources. Except in the irrigated sections, crop sales provided little income, although in some areas they account for as much as three-fourths of all cash receipts in good years. A large proportion of the farmers were operating units too small to be profitable, and some of them were carrying an indebtedness equal to, or higher than, the value of their farms.

As a result of heavier precipitation, higher temperatures, a normally mild winter, and a long growing season, the Southern Great Plains presents problems of agricultural adjustment considerably different from those in the other Great Plains Areas. Except in northern Texas, where wind erosion has aggravated the drought situation and where farmers were already in serious straits prior to the excessively dry years, the agricultural situation has been less serious than in either of the other two areas. However, small farms, depleted livestock numbers, heavy indebtedness, non-resident ownership of land, and increasing tenancy have intensified the need for agricultural readjustments.

In almost all of the areas studied permanent rehabilitation of farmers involves an increase in the size of some of the farms, retirement of some land from crops, an increase in pasture acreage, replacement of depleted livestock herds, repairs to buildings, and repairs or replacement of machinery.

The report is based on a survey in 13 widely separated counties, representative of the range of conditions in the Great Plains drought area. In addition to general information on the agricultural situation, farm records were obtained by personal interviews from almost 1,000 farmers in the area.

The description of "Rural Relief Trends in Wisconsin," (71) emphasizing four periods from October 1934 to November 1936, includes data from eight sample counties and the State as a whole, pertaining to general relief, WPA employment, Social Security assistance to the aged and the blind and to dependent children, and FSA emergency grants to needy farmers.

Throughout the period, from 69 to 82 percent of the heads of families on relief in the State were other than farmers; even in the open country not more than 50 percent were farmers. Unskilled labor constituted from 40 to 50 percent of the total number of family heads during the period. Of these unskilled workers 20 to 33 percent were farm laborers. After June 1935 the proportion of skilled workers decreased, having been absorbed into private industry and the Works Program. Town cases received more aid than did open-country cases, partly because of higher living costs in cities and partly because open-country residents could be expected to provide part of their food and fuel.

Partly because of rising farm-purchasing power the average FSA emergency subsistence grants declined in Wisconsin, whereas for the Nation the trend was upward.

Family Living Studies

An analysis of "The Composition of Rural Households" in Genesee County, New York, (56) presents statistical data concerning size, type, and age. This study, including 2,039 farm and 886 non-farm households, demonstrates that no true picture of the stages of the life cycle of families is to be had from a mere classification of families by husband and wife and number of children unless the age factor is considered. The household size with the largest percentage of persons is the 5-person unit, which includes 17.3 percent of all persons.

An analysis of "Living Standards of Filipino Families on an Hawaiian Sugar Plantation" (74) shows the importance of cultural and customary factors in level of living. Filipino men on the Island far outnumbered the women. Among the findings are the following: "The intense competition among the men for the favors of the greatly outnumbered women is reflected, even after marriage, in their expenditures for street clothes The increase in food expenditures that follows an increase in income does not signify a relative improvement in diet, for as income increased, diets were further unbalanced by increased expenditures for meats and starches..... In many families where there are no beds and inadequate bedclothing, one finds victrolas, radios, and several large framed photographs." Customary funeral rites were expensive. Superstitions often prevented the administration of needed medical care, and families raised chickens even at a loss because they had done so in the Philippines and found prestige in their ownership.

A study (76) based primarily on an analysis of field schedules taken from 50 large French-Catholic Acadian families, which derived their livelihood from moss-picking, fishing, or trapping in St. Joseph Parish, Louisiana, depicts family and community life as characterized by great homogeneity and solidarity. The families were patriarchal in type, and recreational, religious, and work activities were centered in the family. Most families said that if they were to become wealthy, they would buy large farms, build substantial homes, and live in the same locality. All parents were opposed to having relatives live with them or living with relatives. Details concerning housing, occupations, incomes, mobility, origin of grandparents and great-grandparents, health, hygiene, births, deaths, marriage, and other facts are included.

"The Farm-Housing Survey" (11) furnishes detailed information concerning 595,855 farm houses, their equipment and needs for improvement, in 308 counties in 46 States as of 1934. The data were collected by women field workers under the supervision of the various State Extension Services and include information for 8.6 percent of occupied farm houses in the United States.

Region, State, and county data concerning ownership, age, material of construction, stories, number of rooms, persons per room, unused rooms, number of bedrooms, closets, bathrooms, basements, water supply and sewage disposal, types of lighting, heating, refrigeration, cooking stoves, power washers, and conditions of foundations, exterior walls, roofs, chimneys, doors and windows, screens, exterior paint, interior walls and ceilings, floors, and stairs are included. Comparable data from 1930 and 1935 censuses indicate that the farm housing of the country as a whole is not so good as for houses included in the survey which were more frequently located near urban centers.

The "Standard of Living on Carroll County Maryland Farms" (45) is appraised in a field investigation of 72 families, the average net cash income (\$1,399) of which was higher than that for the average in the entire county. That the level of living is high is attested by the fact that the average expenditure for recreation and advancement was \$137, over two-thirds of which went for organizations and education. Weekly food records indicated relatively good diets with only slight deficiencies in certain items. The value of non-purchased goods and services consumed by the families was not treated.

The most important source of current farm-family data for any rural group is the Farm Family Record Book kept by FSA borrowers with the assistance of the county home and farm supervisors. Preliminary analyses of these records are available for 1937 for Northern Minnesota (49), Southern Minnesota (48), Tennessee (68), Nebraska (52) and (53), Oklahoma (61 and 62), New Mexico (54), and Ohio (17).

Plan for Cooperative Rural Research

A summary report of the organization, scope, and results of the "Plan for Cooperative Rural Research" (20) has been issued by the Division of Social Research of the WPA. During the first 4 years of its operation the plan has

had an important effect on the development of rural sociology and rural research throughout the United States. Publications based on data collected under the cooperative plan include research monographs, special reports and bulletins by the Washington staff and more than 200 publications from 41 States. Supplementary materials included in the report are a list of the more important Federal publications, brief descriptions of the various Federal rural relief surveys, a table showing the States in which the various Federal surveys were conducted, a subject bibliography of State bulletins, and a table of State projects conducted under the Plan for Cooperative Rural Research.

Population Migration

The Michigan Census of Population and Unemployment covering the period 1930-35 provides information concerning migration during the decline and the first stages of improvement in economic activity. "Michigan Migrants," (25) a study based upon a sample of 120,247 census schedules, presents information relative to the personal characteristics of workers who moved during the survey period. Male agricultural workers, especially farm laborers, were more mobile than non-agricultural workers, but female agricultural workers were less mobile than non-agricultural workers. Professional persons were more mobile than proprietors and clerical workers.

Among manual workers, highest mobility was associated with lowest level of skill. This may be partly owing to the greater age of the more skilled workers and probably to the greater insecurity of the less skilled. Also, the "data indicate that for both males and females family support was a stabilizing influence." Mobility rates were highest among persons who had started but not completed high school. Data concerning age and marital status of migrants making rural-urban, urban-rural, urban-urban, or rural-rural moves are given. Relief and mobility had a common cause in unemployment; moves of persons who received public assistance seldom had any immediate connection with relief; unemployed workers did not "shop around" to get the most liberal relief grants; the most mobile workers were those who usually worked in the extractive industries, such as forestry and mining; and during the depression there was a pronounced movement of industrial workers into agriculture followed by the reversal of this trend during the period of business improvement.

"A Study of 6655 Migrant Households in California," (40) which had received FSA grants during 1938, found that three-fourths of the group came from four States, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, and two-fifths came from Oklahoma alone. A large proportion of these migrants came from a very few counties. The most frequently reported reason for migration from Oklahoma and Missouri was drought; for Texas and all Mountain Pacific States it was "lack of work." Counties in the Great Plains from which the largest number of households had come were not those of greatest drought intensity during 1934 and 1936. Migrations may have begun earlier in counties where drought intensity was not greatest; heavier relief payments may have deterred migration from counties where the drought was most severe; or increased use of machinery, as well as general soil destruction, and the breakdown of tenancy may have been more important than the migrants thought when they gave the information.

Land Tenure and Settlement

A survey (42) of 235 southern Iowa farm tenants living in areas having many small as well as many corporation-owned farms suffering from severe soil erosion, indicates that the customary crop-share leases were most extensively used, followed in order by cash and stock-share leases. Eighty percent of those tenants who were 30 years of age or less stated that they expected to own a farm of their own at some future time, but only 47 percent of the tenants 31 years of age or more anticipated ownership. Thirty-eight percent of all the tenants had owned farms in the past. The best land use, from the point of view of conservation, was found on the farms of the tenants who were related to their landlords, poorest on those of private non-related landlords, and intermediate use on corporate-owned farms. The most conservative land use was found on stock-share farms; the most exploitive on cash-rent farms, which are commonly small ones located on poor and rolling lands leased by frequently shifting tenants. One-year leases were customary, although two-thirds of the tenants expressed a preference for long-term leases. Most tenants had not considered arrangements other than those in effect at present. Rather than attempt to get these changed, they would probably move.

The Rural Radio and Newspapers

Findings of an "Iowa Rural Radio Listener Survey, 1938," (43) based upon personal interviews in 44 counties with 5,771 families (65 percent on farms and 36 percent in towns under 2,500 population), include: Radios were owned by 88 percent of the farm and 92 percent of the town families; 50 percent of the farm and one-third of the town families had purchased new sets in the past 2 years. Most farm sets (57 percent) were in kitchens and dining rooms, whereas 71 percent of the town sets were elsewhere - usually living rooms. Of 10 types of programs adults most frequently preferred news broadcasts. Market reports were a close second for farm men, but held little interest for adults in town. Women and children preferred serial drama much more than men. For boys and girls 13 to 18, comedians and popular music were the most preferred. The rating given religious music by girls was only half so great as that given by their mothers. Farm families seldom preferred classical music; town families gave such programs a somewhat higher preference rating. Of the families stating whether they depended most on radio or newspaper for news of national importance, 72 percent mentioned the radio. This is significant in view of the fact that 86 percent of all radio owners took at least one daily paper. The most common complaints about favorite stations involved quantity or quality of advertising.

Although people in rural communities have a great variety of interests in their community, neighborhood affairs and personal relationships receive much more space than other community topics in the 35 weekly papers analysed in "Interests of Rural People as Portrayed in Weekly Newspapers." (46)

Education and Training

A "Survey of Rural Education in North Dakota" (59) furnishes data concerning population, school administration, finance, instruction, and enrollment in

nine representative counties. In most of the counties, the Federal and school censuses indicate population decreases but the school enrollment has decreased even more since 1920. This is explained by the increased proportion of graduates from elementary schools who lack opportunities to continue their education. Of the eighth-grade graduates from 1924 to 1934, 46 percent were from one-room schools. School attendance of those enrolled had increased during the 10 years preceding 1935. In the State there are 592 schoolhouses, mostly one-teacher schools, not in use at the present time because of insufficient enrollments. "The mania for tax reduction has been carried to the extreme in some counties, especially those counties" with large foreign elements in their population. The consolidation movement, so aggressive two decades ago, is making no gain. In western portions of the State sparsity of settlement renders complete transportation systems impossible. It is recommended that the State, which has recently enacted a school fund equalization, change from the district to the county-unit system of school administration.

EXTENSION REPORTS

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Extension Activities in Illinois

The Illinois Extension Service announces a rural leaders' short course especially for rural pastors this year, to be held June 19-30. This will be conducted in the form of a symposium. The first two hours in the morning will be devoted to the presentation of various aspects of the extension program in agriculture and home economics as represented at the College of Agriculture. This will be followed by a discussion, questions and answers. During the next two hours strategy of the rural church, including various ways in which to make rural church programs effective and reach into the community, will be given by leaders selected by the Illinois Church Council, the Catholic Rural Life Conference, and other cooperating groups.

Wisconsin Holds Twelfth Annual Rural Drama Festival

As part of the Farm and Home Week program, January 30 to February 3, Wisconsin held its Twelfth Annual Rural Drama Festival. Each year the plays are first put on by all kinds of groups and organizations in school houses, churches, community halls, and county-seat towns. This year about 50 one-act plays were presented in 12 different counties.

Mrs. Marie Kellogg, drama specialist in the Rural Sociology Department, attended all of them and invited six to come to the University Theatre for presentation to the Farm and Home Week audience. These were selected on the basis of good entertainment, a balanced program, and some unique feature to commend it. The drama festival each year attracts hundreds of country and city people.

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Division Notes

"Intrinsic and Environmental Factors in American Population Growth" (83) was the general topic of a symposium arranged by the Population Association of America held at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia in November 1938. The papers have been published as Volume 80, No. 4, of the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Life contributed two papers: "Prospective Development of Cultural Patterns in Rural America and Their Possible Influence on Population Trends," by Carl C. Taylor, and "Agriculture and Current Population Trends," by Conrad Taeuber.

N. L. Whetten of Connecticut State College has temporarily joined the staff of the Division in order to work on a study of migration and land settlement in the Pacific Coast States.

Federal Notes

The Bureau of the Census announces the publication of an "Alphabetical Index of Occupations by Industries and Social-Economic Groups: 1937." (34) The index includes the principal occupational designations returned on the population schedules of the last four censuses. It also shows the basis of the classification into the Social-Economic groupings of occupations which has been widely used in recent years.

Statistics for gainful workers classified into social-economic groups are now available in the report "A Social-Economic Grouping of the Gainful Workers of the United States: 1930," by Alba M. Edwards, (35) issued by the Bureau of the Census. The statistics are presented by sex, age, color or race, and industry for the United States, and by sex and color or race for the States and for cities of 500,000 inhabitants or more.

"Farmer Co-ops in Virginia" is the first of a series of popular bulletins by States, describing the high points of agricultural cooperation in each. It is issued by the Farm Credit Administration and the author is R. C. Dorsey, of the Information and Extension Division.

A study of the location of 3,553 families in the Norris Dam Reservoir Area found that 68 percent of these had remained in some one of the five counties in that area. Other counties of Tennessee had received 26.6 percent, and only 5.4 percent had left the State. A recent survey by the Tennessee Extension Division secured reports from one-half of these families. Among these, 47 percent stated that they were "satisfied" or "pleased"; 22 percent stated that they were "dissatisfied" or "displeased"; and the remainder either said that there was no particular difference or gave indefinite reports.

W. C. Holley, formerly assistant State supervisor in Texas, has joined the staff of the Rural Surveys Section, Division of Research, WPA.

The Division of Research of the Works Progress Administration has inaugurated a series of pamphlets on social problems which are designed to popularize the results of studies presented more technically in the research monographs of the Division. Both the first publication, "Depression Pioneers," and the second, "Rural Youth," were prepared by David Cushman Coyle.

The problems of routing migratory agricultural workers within the State of Texas are described in "Survey of Farm Placement in Texas, 1936 and 1937," (69) a report issued by the Texas Employment Service. Efforts were made to fill requests for laborers through local sources whenever possible and to reduce to a minimum long-distance migrations for jobs. By stationing workers along the routes most frequently traveled, it was possible to assist in directing the flow to those areas where employment opportunities were known to exist.

The report of the Works Progress Administration on the interstate migration problem and its effect on California was published in the Appendix of the Congressional Record for March 30, 1939. This report is a brief summary of conditions and recommendations for action.

From a report (12) resulting from the analysis of 1,000 mailed questionnaires returned (1,500 were sent out) by Washington technical and administrative staff members of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the college catalogs of 51 agricultural colleges, the following conclusions are drawn: (1) College students should be given the opportunity and probably be required to take more work in the basic sciences, such as, mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry, and the branches of biology; foreign languages; public administrations; social science; and organization and work in report writing and public speaking in training for technical and administrative work in agriculture. (2) "Practical" courses should not dominate the curriculum to the extent that broader social and economic considerations are omitted. (3) Only about one-seventh of all courses offered by the agricultural colleges, small and large, are "economics, other social studies, English, and literature." (4) Social and literary subjects, when weighted by the number of students enrolled in them, amounted to 21.5 percent of the required courses.

Forty-nine percent of the white and 88 percent of the Negro extension workers in the United States have had courses in sociology, including rural sociology, during their undergraduate work. Of the total undergraduate training time for extension workers, 3 percent was given to sociology. Eight percent of the workers stated that sociology had been more helpful than any other subject taken in college and 18 percent ranked sociology as first among the disciplines which should have received more emphasis in undergraduate work. Home demonstration and 4-H Club county agents had more training in and placed a higher value upon sociology as a discipline than did agricultural county agents.

"Medical Care Plans for Low-Income Farm Families" ("The Health Officer," Vol. 3, No. 9, Jan. 1939, U. S. Public Health Service) is the title of an article in which Dr. R. C. Williams of the Farm Security Administration describes the plans sponsored by that agency in cooperation with State medical associations. More than 78,000 low-income farm families of 20 States are being helped through these plans to secure medical care at a cost they can afford.

State Notes

D. E. Lindstrom has begun a restudy of rural organizations including a reinventory of groups in which farm people participate; a study of the structure and programs of local organizations, such as community units, community clubs, farmers' clubs, parent-teacher associations, and similar groups that are functioning; a study of the participation of farm people and the various types of rural organization in the areas studied in 1930, plus other areas; and the keeping of records, insofar as it is possible, on groups that are cooperating with the Extension Service, such as community units, Farm-Bureau units, farmers' clubs, and community clubs.

In expanding the Rural Sociology program of the State College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky there has been established a Rural Sociology Section in the Department of Farm Economics of which W. D. Nicholls is the head. The present personnel of the Rural Sociology Section includes Howard W. Beers (in charge) and Merton D. Oyler who will give their attention primarily to research and resident instruction. New courses to be offered include Rural Sociology, Rural Leadership and Social Change, Rural Organization, and Rural Social Attitudes, the two latter to be conducted on the graduate level. Plans are being made also for the expansion of the Rural Sociology Extension Program.

A study designed to throw some light on the beet-laborer situation in Montana has been started at the Experiment Station. Some information will be obtained on the beet growers for selected beet-growing areas, the number of acres of beets grown and tenancy status, and considerable information will be gathered on the beet laborer. Some of the data will be obtained from available records such as records in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and sugar-beet companies. For a sample of the growers as well as the workers, a detailed interview of the households will give additional pertinent information on length of time worked, total income, source of income, family composition, and living conditions.

Paul H. Landis, rural sociologist, has been released from a part of his college duties to accept a part-time consultantship with the National Resources Committee to serve on a panel of technical consultants of the Pacific Northwest Land-Migration-Settlement-Public Works Study.

Other Notes

C. C. Zimmerman is continuing the studies of village communities, a part of which was reported in his book, "The Changing Community." The present plans are to study three American villages, New England, Middle West, and South; and 5 to 7 European villages of the type from which the American people came. The method combines historical and statistical analyses with the findings of a participant observer. A careful historical, economic, administrative, demographic, psychological, and cultural analysis of these communities is expected to throw light on the fundamental nature of our American local life and needs as related to the increasing centralization of governments prevalent in all these countries.

"Agriculture and the Farm Population" (93) is first of a series of Social Research Bulletins published by McGill University. It gives statistics by counties and regions for Ontario and Quebec. Part II is devoted to the Population of the regions, showing growth of population, rural-urban distribution and composition by age and race, and Part IV describes the agricultural working force, showing mode of tenure, the number of hired and family laborers, and the total labor force and labor productivity. The volume includes 29 charts and 33 tables.

An illustration of decreasing differences between rural and urban groups is found in the suicide statistics for Sweden. For 1821-1830 the suicide rates per 100,000 inhabitants were 4.9 in rural and 15.4 in urban areas. During the following 100 years the rural rate increased much more rapidly than the urban rate, and for 1921-1930 the rural rate was 13.7 compared with 17.0 for urban areas.

According to the 1938 report of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 5002 families whose property was affected by TVA reservoirs have been removed to other locations. Of these, 2,109 were owners and 2,893 were tenants. Family removals have been completed at the Norris, Wheeler, and Pickwick Dams. During 1937-38, 620 families moved.

Sixty-two percent of the farm families had radios in 1938, according to an estimate of "The Joint Committee Study of Rural Radio Ownership and Use in the United States." (91) This is nearly three times as great as the proportion reporting radios in 1930. Ownership of radios was highest among farm families in New England (88 percent), and least in the East South Central States (45 percent). The range is from 31 percent in Mississippi to 98 percent in New Hampshire. According to this study the average farm family uses the radio nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day. This survey was based on 20,000 interviews almost evenly divided between farm and village families. Results include basic ownership factors, location of radio sets within the home, median hours of daily use, and availability of family members throughout the day.

List of Publications
Reviewed and Received
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Federal

- (1) "Farm Labor Conditions in Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Monmouth Counties, New Jersey, April-May, 1936," by Josiah C. Folsom, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1939, 51 pp.
- (2) "A Graphic Summary of Farm Animals and Animal Products," by O. E. Baker, Misc. Pub. No. 269, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1939, 88 pp.
- (3) "Influence of Drought and Depression on a Rural Community, A Case Study in Haskell County, Kansas," by A. D. Edwards, Soc. Res. Rept. No. VII, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Jan. 1939, 116 pp.
- (4) "Social Relationships and Institutions in an Established Rurban Community, South Holland, Illinois," by L. S. Dodson, Soc. Res. Rept. No. XVI, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C. Feb. 1939, 55 pp.
- (5) "Barriers to Internal Trade in Farm Products," by George R. Taylor, Edgar L. Burtis, and Frederick V. Waugh, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., Mar. 1939, 104 pp.
- (6) "Part-Time Farming in the United States: A Selected List of References," compiled by Helen E. Hennefrund, Agr. Econ. Bibl. No. 77, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1939, 272 pp.
- (7) "Rural Zoning and Your County," issued by the Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1939, 14 pp.
- (8) "Agricultural Relief Measures Relating to the Raising of Farm Prices," by Marion E. Wheeler and Mamie I. Herb, Agr. Econ. Bibl. No. 76, 75th Congress, Jan. 5, 1937-June 16, 1938, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1939, 109 pp.
- (9) "Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1938," U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1938, 160 pp.
- (10) "Housing Requirements of Farm Families in the United States," by Maud Wilson, Misc. Pub. No. 322, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Feb. 1939, 40 pp.
- (11) "The Farm-Housing Survey," Extension Service and Office of the Secretary, Misc. Pub. No. 323, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Mar. 1939, 42 pp.

- (12) "Career Training for Agriculture," a report to the Committee on Career Training for Agriculture, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., 1938, 25 pp.
- (13) "Preparation and Training of Extension Workers, 1938," by M. C. Wilson, and Lucinda Crile, Ext. Circ. 295, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Nov. 1938, 43 pp.
- (14) "Building Rural Leadership," Extension Service, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Jan. 1939, 76 pp.
- (15) "Soil Defense in the South," by E. M. Rowalt, Farmers' Bull. No. 1809, U. S. Dept. of Agr., U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Wash. D. C., 1938, 64 pp.
- (16) "Report of the Administrator of the Farm Security Administration, 1938," U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1938, 22 pp.
- (17) "Family Living of Farm Security Administration Borrowers in Ohio, 1935-37," by Day Monroe and Maryland Y. Pennell, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., July 1938, 19 pp.
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FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 15, 1939

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A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROSPECTIVE WORK
OF THE DIVISION OF FARM POPULATION AND RURAL WELFARE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1939-1940

I. In county planning

A. Population analyses

1. Number, distribution, composition, and trends

a. The Washington office of the Division can compile the following data for all counties where unified or intensive planning is being done.

- (1) General population trends for any number of decades back to and including 1850
- (2) Farm population data for 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935
- (3) Age composition
- (4) Racial and nationality composition
- (5) Birth and death rates, i.e., natural increase
- (6) Prospective changes in number and composition of residents

Note: Some of these data are also available by minor civil divisions.

b. Work that will need to and should be done in the field includes the following:

- (1) Mapping the population in place within minor civil divisions - from highway maps and county and community committees
- (2) Family composition - from W.P.A., F.S.A., and school data and by community committees

Note: From data which can be made available from these two sources, county committees can know the following:

- (1) Which sections of the county have lost, gained, or remained stationary in population over any period of time during the last 80 years
- (2) Population trends by types or classes of land
- (3) Prospective population changes, for county as a whole or by minor civil division, in the immediate future, for the total and for special age classes - as children of school age - (calculated from age composition, mortality rates, and fertility ratios)

B. Social organization analyses

1. Number and size of community, town, and village groupings and the number and kinds of services they render.
2. Institutions, location and service areas - schools, churches, hospitals, libraries, recreation places, welfare offices, etc.
3. Nationality, racial, religious, and other cultural groupings
4. Farmers' organizations - cooperative and general
5. Women's organizations
6. Youth organizations

Note: All of these types of organizations must be studied in the field by the county and community committees, with such help as is needed and is available by State and Federal agencies. Investigations in this field can vary from a mere cursory survey to as extensive analyses as desired; for example:

1. Map location of institutions, agencies, and organizations

2. Compile data for each organization on

- a. History and development
- b. Membership
- c. Leadership

C. Tenure and other class structure of the population

- 1. Tenure and income data can be compiled per county by the Washington office and adjusted and complemented by field work.
- 2. Relief and F.S.A. data must be compiled in the field.
- 3. Data on race, nationality, and religious groups must be largely compiled in the field.
- 4. Some data on farm laborers can be obtained from secondary sources, but most of them must be gathered in the field.

D. Standard- or levels-of-living analyses

- 1. Comparative data by county can be furnished by the Washington office of the Division.
- 2. Detailed data per population and land groupings must be compiled in the county through the use of an index constructed by the Washington office.
- 3. Data concerning institutional and other services can be assembled from data gathered in "B" (these services are a part of the standard of living of the rural people)

II. Assistance to action agencies

A. Agricultural Adjustment Administration

- 1. Studies of displacement due to mechanization and crop reduction

2. Composition and characteristics of participants and non-participants

3. Reasons for participation or non-participation

B. Soil Conservation Service

1. Studies of families displaced by land purchase program

2. Studies of family and cultural composition of those living on eroded land

3. Cultural traditions as factors in soil erosion and its control

4. Composition and characteristics of participants and non-participants in action programs

C. Farm Security Administration

1. Analyses of clients' records to determine causes and effects of success and failure of rehabilitation efforts

2. Studies of resettlement communities

3. Special analyses of

- a. Non-commercial farming

- b. Farm problem areas

D. Forest Service

1. Study of possibilities of developing farm-forest communities

2. Study of families on poor lands which should go into forests

3. Study of farm families displaced by forest purchases

III. Long time or basic research

A. Population

1. Annual farm-population estimates

2. Composition, characteristics, distribution, and migration of the rural population
3. Studies of population pressure
4. Special studies dealing with the relation of population to natural resources
5. Causes and effects of rural-urban and farm-to-farm migration and the selectivity of migration

B. Community and local organizations

1. The development of Subsistence Homesteads and other Re-settlement communities
2. Development, structure, and changes of normal or typical rural communities
3. The role of local organizations and social participation in the community
4. The development and functions of leadership
5. Implementing action programs through community and local organization channels

C. Standards or levels of living

1. Analyses of census and other secondary data showing levels of living
2. Construction of an index to show current changes in farm-family standards of living
3. Farm-family incomes and expenditures

D. Farm labor and tenancy

1. The replacement or shifts in farm labor due to mechanization and crop restriction

2. Labor employment possibilities per agricultural region
3. Special studies of the agricultural ladder
4. Study of migrant laborers
5. Incomes and levels of living of tenants and laborers as contrasted to owners
6. The nature and development of agricultural classes

E. Rehabilitation studies

1. Study of causes and effects of successes and failures of rural rehabilitation clients
2. Special 11-county study of subsistence or non-commercial farming

F. Social psychology

1. Studies of farmer attitudes
2. Studies of farmer public opinion
3. Studies of public opinion making agencies - newspapers, farm journals, radio, etc.
4. Studies of rural ideologies and philosophies
5. Farmers' movements

G. Regional cultures

1. Studies of typical cultural areas - corn, cotton, wheat, dairy, fruit, etc. belts
2. Study of cultural groups or islands
3. Studies of acculturation, with special reference to urbanization, commercialization, and mechanization of rural areas

IV. Cooperative projects with colleges

- A. The Division desires that all its field work be done in cooperation with colleges. Such projects can be planned:
 - 1. If and when a college and the Division wish to study the same or similar situations
 - 2. When both are prepared to assist adequately in financing the project
 - 3. If and when objectives, methods, and areas for analysis can be agreed upon
- B. Projects in any of the fields of research listed above can and will be carried out within the limits of funds in cooperation with those colleges which desire and are in a position to join the Division in such projects.
- C. The Division's part in cooperative projects will be furnished in terms of:
 - 1. Technical planning by members of the Washington or regional staff of the Division
 - 2. Assignment of Washington or regional personnel to field work or by joint employment of "Agents," agreed upon by the college and the Division
 - 3. Financial and personnel assistance in tabulating data
 - 4. Assistance in the joint preparation of research reports

NEXT YEAR IN THE DIVISION

In order to carry on its expanded program of work, both in relation to the County Land Use Planning Project and in the total program of the reconstituted Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare (formerly the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life) is planning a number of changes during the year. The work in population analysis, human geography, standards or levels of living, and analysis of communities is to be strengthened. The Tenure Relations Section of the Program Planning Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the work which the Division has been doing in the fields of farm labor, tenancy, and rural dependency are being combined as part of the Division. Dr. W. T. Ham, formerly in charge of the Tenure Relations Section, and other members of his staff are joining the staff of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare.

It is planned to augment the facilities of the Division to make studies of rural attitudes and opinions and public opinion making agencies in cooperation with the work of the Division of Program Surveys. Moreover, there is to be continued in the Division a study of rural ideologies and philosophies already begun in another unit of the Department.

The growing realization of the importance of a knowledge of cultural variables for an understanding of the functioning of agricultural programs has led to the establishment within the Division of a small group of persons with considerable training in Cultural Anthropology. One important function of this group will be an analysis of the extent to which custom, traditions, and mores serve to retard or to facilitate action programs. They will also study the characteristics of typical cultural areas, thus carrying forward through another approach the regionalization based on type of farming, which has proven most useful.

The Regional staffs which were established by the Division in connection with the Land Use Program are being continued with a major emphasis on the County Land Use Planning Program. Working with representatives of the Division of Farm Management, Land Economics, and State and Local Planning, members of the Division are located in 7 areas, serving the following States:

<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Regional Representative</u>
Atlanta	Georgia	John B. Holt
Amarillo	Texas	Olaf T. Larson
Milwaukee	Wisconsin	James O. Babcock
Upper Darby	Pennsylvania	Walter C. McKain
Lincoln	Nebraska	Francis D. Cronin
Berkeley	California	Davis McEntire
Little Rock	Arkansas	Herbert Pryor (Acting)

RESEARCH REPORTS

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Relief 1/

That different types of rural families were affected in different ways and to different degrees during the depression of the early 1930's is emphasized in a Works Progress Administration bulletin, "Rural Families on Relief." (13) The price of most of the products of the commercial farmer is determined by the exportable surplus and his market undergoes fluctuations in response to weather and economic conditions. The agricultural adjustment program has to some extent offset these circumstances and, consequently, relief needs have not been so heavy among farmers of this class. In contrast, the part-time and self-sufficing farmers, whose agricultural efforts are mostly for home use, have suffered more from the industrial decline and the depletion of natural resources. These families are helped relatively little by agricultural price-raising. A third recognizable class of agricultural relief family is the chronically poverty-stricken, consisting chiefly of farm laborers in all areas and of sharecroppers and tenants in the Cotton Area of the South. They are dependent on commercial farmers and therefore suffer from the same troubles, without being able to improve their own condition by raising much of the food for home consumption. Any factor which has a depressing effect on other farmers hits this group with especial severity.

Rural relief families had relatively more children than the general rural population and a smaller proportion of adults of working age. Normal families, consisting of husband and wife or of parents and children, accounted for almost three-fourths of all rural relief units. They were relatively more frequent in the open country than in villages. On the other hand, broken families - that is, family groups consisting of only one parent and children - were found more often in villages, particularly when they had women as heads. Broken families were more frequent in the southern areas than elsewhere. The plight of many rural relief families is shown by the fact that one-eighth of them had no employable member and an additional 8 percent had women workers only. Histories of continuous or recurrent relief were frequent in areas where rural incomes were particularly low or where depression had been aggravated by extraordinary disaster, as in the drought areas. The same factors largely determined the average size of relief grants. The smallest amounts of relief were found in the southern areas and the highest in the industrialized areas of the North and East.

The data on which the report is based were secured by means of a survey covering 138 counties, representative of 9 major agricultural areas, and 116 New England townships.

1/ Complete citations will be found in the bibliography, beginning on page 22.

A study of "Former Relief Cases in Private Employment" (14) is based upon 1,108 families that left relief rolls during the summer of 1935 because a member of the family had obtained employment in private industry. In the 12 months covered, three-fifths of the cases studied were forced to seek assistance from public funds even though business activity increased. "A great many of the cases leaving relief because of private employment may be expected to reappear on the public assistance rolls within a year following their separation. These cases are forced to return because of unstable employment and low earnings, occasioned by the fact that they are part of a reserve labor supply drawn upon largely for the seasonal needs of industry. Even with the help of public funds their incomes are below any reasonably adequate level of living. The cases going into private employment were, in a sense, a preferred group. This makes the high proportion of cases returning to public assistance rolls more significant."

Migration

The relative youth of migrants is emphasized by a Works Progress Administration Report, "Migrant Families," (9) based upon records of 5,489 such families representing a sample of those receiving care in transient bureaus during September 1935. Over one-half of the heads of the transient families studied were under the age of 35, whereas, in the general population, one-half of the heads of families are under 45 years of age. The migrant families were also relatively small and stood relatively high in educational attainments. Because minority ethnic and racial groups were relatively more cohesive and because they were less acceptable in new communities, they were under-represented among the migrants. The report contradicts the belief that the majority of the migrants were on the road to "see the country" or were merely chronic wanderers. Most of them made relatively short moves, and four-fifths of the families had definite contact with their destination. Over half had close personal connections more or less obligated to assist them. Four-fifths of the families sought economic betterment through employment and the assistance of relatives. Among the remainder, desire for a more healthful climate was the most important factor leading to migration. Unemployment was the chief expulsive force in all States except North Dakota and South Dakota, where farming failure was of principal importance.

Lack of social stability, which has resulted in lack of community solidarity in the Northern Great Plains, is described in the bulletin "Farm Population Mobility in Selected Montana Communities." (41) The study, which is based upon field interviews, includes data collected in 1937 concerning 1,356 households in 8 communities selected to depict the characteristics of both in and out migrants, as well as those of non-migrant households, for the period 1925 to 1937.

The study finds that the great exodus of people from the drought areas created mobility patterns not unlike those previously prevailing. "Among the more usual mobility aspects that also characterize drought

period migration are the following: (1) short distance mobility is more frequent than long distance mobility; (2) an exodus out of an area is always accompanied by a countermovement of population into the same area; (3) the older families and persons are less migratory than the younger families and persons; (4) proportionately more males than females enter the rural areas; and (5) long distance migrants tend to go more frequently to urban than to rural areas, and enter urban and industrial occupations more frequently than they enter rural and agricultural occupations."

Of the 317 households which had left the communities of study, only 26 percent had left the State. About two-thirds of those which left Montana went West and most of the others went East to their original "home" State. A large proportion of those going West went to cities.

"Transients and Migrants," (33) who have entered California in large numbers as a result of displacement by drought, mechanization, and other causes constitute one of the State's most knotty problems. The Bureau of Public Administration of the University of California has summarized facts concerning the number and mode of life of these people and the efforts made by State and Federal agencies to assist them.

A study of "Migration into Oregon, 1930-1937" (44) has been made from school records of migrants with children in the schools of Oregon's 15 largest cities and from records of migrant families whose heads registered for employment at the Oregon State Employment Service offices throughout the State. After duplications on these two registers were eliminated, the migrants in the two samples totaled 115,400. From the study it was estimated that "some 200,000 migrants from other States probably came into Oregon," and that "the gross migration into Oregon during the seven and one-half year period equalled at least 11 percent, and probably reached 20 percent or more of the resident population."

Eighty-four percent of the recent migrants came from 14 States, 3 adjoining, 7 Northern Great Plains States, and 4 North Central States. These are the same States from which most of the 1920-1930 migration came. The people tended to move directly from East to West along parallels of latitude and the shorter the distance the greater the number of migrants. That there was high population turnover is indicated by the fact that for every 2 persons entering Oregon, approximately one left. Newcomers tended to seek localities similar to their former environment or those particularly desirable for certain reasons, and the larger the cities the more persons they received.

Rural Organizations and Agencies

An Illinois Experiment Station bulletin, "4-H Club Work: Effect on Capability and Personal Quality," (36) includes analyses of tests administered to 2,263 boys and girls living in six counties. The study

makes comparisons of such statistical indices as those derived from averages, multiple correlation, and multiple factor analyses of scores on achievement, attitude, social behavior, ascendancy-submission tests and indices of organization participation and prizes won by members and by non-members who were acquaintances of the members. The report states that 4-H Club training had a direct effect upon capability as measured by the achievement test but that "the indirect effect of this training through such avenues as adaptability and attitudes toward farm life was not so strong as had been expected." The increase in capability of boys and girls was most pronounced among students who had not taken agriculture and home economics in high school. Prize winning was not closely related to achievement or adaptability to farm life, which indicated that other methods of motivation should be emphasized. The members were superior in many respects but, as demonstrated in a previous bulletin of the series, the 4-H Club members were a selected group. This being the case, the assumption that 4-H Club work had improved the personal qualities of the members appreciably was not definitely established by the analysis.

Newspapers

An Experiment Station Bulletin which analyzes "Washington Country Weekly Newspapers, Their Distribution and Characteristics, 1902-1938" (57) reports that the heyday for such papers was from 1914 to 1916 when there were 252 in the State. From 1918 to 1921, a period during which the building of improved roads brought city dailies to the farmers, 28 percent of these rural weeklies passed out of existence. However, since 1921 there has been only slight variation in their number. Most of the surviving weeklies are published on either Thursday or Friday so that rural people may read their advertisements before making the customary Saturday trip to town. There has been a growing tendency to specialize on subjects of local interest not covered in daily papers and it is predicted that the weekly paper will continue to be published in medium-sized towns offering adequate population and advertising support.

Education

"By all quantitative and qualitative criteria, educational opportunities for rural children in the United States are inadequate in comparison with those for urban children," according to a report, "Education in the Forty-Eight States." (19) The report states further that: (1) the rural child attends schools in which terms average 18 days shorter than those of schools attended by urban children; (2) as of 1930, 58 percent of all urban youth of high school age (14-17) were enrolled in high schools, as compared with 39 percent of the rural youth of the same age; (3) 31 of all rural youth of this age attended rural high schools of which, in all probability, at least 20 percent had less than 20 pupils. "These comparisons point out the need of providing millions of children living in rural communities with opportunities comparable to those provided children living in urban communities."

Rural Youth

A study of 185 rural boys in Pennsylvania, "Out-of-School Rural Youth in Pennsylvania," (47) who dropped out of high school before graduation, concludes: (1) the lower the intelligence of these rural boys, the more likely was their early withdrawal from school; (2) those chronologically retarded tended to leave school earlier than those who were normal or accelerated; (3) vocational subjects appealed more than others to those boys who left school before graduation; (4) the scope of recreational interest of this group was very limited; (5) they frequently presented disciplinary problems to school authorities but were seldom dismissed because of their conduct; (6) when asked to indicate their vocational choice during the early high-school period, the boys did not express a predominant preference for the work of their fathers, but, as they approached the time when they dropped out of school, interest in their fathers' occupations sharply increased; (7) later employment bore practically no relation to occupational preferences expressed before leaving school; and (8) principal reasons listed for withdrawal from school were employment, scholastic failure, disinterest, social maladjustments, inaccessibility of schools, and home influences.

The National Child Labor Committee has published a study (42) of child labor among the migrants on the Pacific Coast, with particular emphasis on those working in the hop fields, walnuts, cotton, and fruits. Living and working conditions, educational opportunities, and health are studied, and recommendations are made for improvement in the lot of the migratory worker.

The Division of Research of the Works Progress Administration has published a preliminary report of a Survey of Youth in the Labor Market. (12) The study is based on interviews with about 30,000 youth from eight cities chosen to represent the various regions of the country. From these interviews a record was obtained of each youth's activity from the time he left the eighth grade to the time of the interview, and these records were used to examine the process of youth's transition from school to job.

Levels of Living

Early in 1936 the Bureau of Home Economics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics began a study of consumer purchases to provide data more comprehensive than any hitherto available on the way American families earn and spend their incomes. This study included families living in 2 metropolitan centers, 6 large cities, 14 middle-sized cities, 29 small cities, 140 villages, and 66 farm counties. Economic activities, cultural patterns, proportion of native-white families in the population, density of population, and relationship to other cities were considered in selecting the cities for study. Farm counties were chosen on the basis of the prevalent type of agriculture, representing 14 types of farming important

in the nation. The villages were closely associated with the counties chosen for the study of farm families, being located either in those counties or in nearby counties with similar agricultural conditions.

The reports of the Bureau of Home Economics present data from approximately 158,000 record cards, 65,000 family-income schedules, 34,000 expenditure schedules, 17,000 supplementary food schedules, 21,000 supplementary furnishings schedules, 91,000 supplementary clothing schedules, and 5,000 food records. The series of regional reports cover data from the family schedule concerning family composition, income, occupation and housing, and a summary of expenditure-schedule data. More detail on family expenditures is presented in reports on specific goods and services such as food, housing, and medical care.

The Bureau of Home Economics has published Part I of the report for the village and small-city families studied in the Pacific Region. (6) It presents data on income for the native-white unbroken families studied in small cities and villages. Part II is to deal with the distribution of total expenditures and relationship between income and expenditures. In Part I, detailed data are given in 303 tables, showing incomes and rentals for families in 4 small cities and 24 villages in the Pacific Coast cities. A methodological appendix discusses the sampling devices used, especially the technique of drawing a second sample from the first, thereby reducing the number of the more detailed records needed.

A noteworthy feature of the presentation is the use of family types based on age and number of year-equivalent family members other than husband and wife. This device replaces the attempt to secure comparability by expressing number of persons in terms of equivalents, based largely on food-consumption requirements. Nine family types were used, including (1) husband and wife only, (2) husband and wife and one child under 16, (3) husband and wife and two children under 16, (4) husband and wife and one person 16 or older with or without one other person regardless of age, etc. Eighty-three percent of the families included in this report were of type 1, 2, 3, or 4.

"A Study of the Incomes and Disbursements of 218 Middle-Income Families in Honolulu," (72) based upon names selected from tax rolls, follows standard procedures in level-of-living studies. Among interesting findings was the fact that men's clothing expenses exceeded those of women by 10 percent, whereas in the United States women's expenditures for clothing commonly exceed those of men by 20 percent. This discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that in Honolulu the seasons are climatically so similar that style changes in women's clothing are not so common as in the United States. Furthermore, the warmer weather in Honolulu increases the men's expenditures for cleaning of light clothes.

According to a study of "Sickness and Medical Care Among the Negro Population in a Delta Area of Arkansas," (32) colds, malaria, eye trouble,

rheumatism, and kidney trouble are the most prevalent illnesses. The analysis was based upon field interviews with 226 Negro families in a typical Delta school district and includes data relative to amounts and kinds of sickness, availability of medical services, types and costs of services utilized, analyzed by income, tenure, and occupational status. The average cost of medical services for the schedule year was \$14.42 per family, or \$3.61 per capita, of which 37.2 percent went for physician's services, 41.7 percent for unprescribed medicine, 10.8 percent for prescribed medicine, and 2.4 percent for midwifery services. The use of local midwives, home medical remedies, and witchcraft are discussed.

Mexico's health problems are discussed in a report (74) prepared for the Pan-American Conference of Rural Hygiene. Interest is centered on health among the aborigines, Mexicans, and Europeans in the rural areas where the restricted, monotonous bean and chili diet, quack or fake doctor, poverty, lack of medical facilities, and many other difficulties stand in the way of the development of a healthy people. Health in the cities and the problem of natural selection are also discussed.

German Peasants

An analysis (70) of the historical development of the rural culture of Southeast Prussia, based upon a special study of 18th, 19th, and 20th century life in a rural village, has been received. It is based upon analysis of secondary sources and first-hand contact with the village families, and depicts the structure of the village through the decades, emphasizing the influence of the great German land-use reforms and their relation to the thinking, daily life, and population fertility of the village.

In the welfare of the German nation the mountain peasant plays an exceedingly important role, according to a recent report of the Reichsministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (71) based upon a synthesis of the existing literature. It is stated that his frugal hard life makes him a brave soldier, a good citizen who preserves the traditions of the past, and his relatively high birthrate helps provide the country with healthy, strong workers. However, his lot has become increasingly difficult in modern times and should be ameliorated by the introduction of better farming methods, of home industries and other devices calculated to retain his culture without encouraging urbanization and commercialization.

According to a report of the German Reichsministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, (69) the plight of some 60,000 Germans, whose parents and grandparents were induced by the Russian nobility to move into an area in the Ukraine during the sixties of the previous century, was a sad one,

especially during the World War when they were torn away from their homes and scattered over the empire. As inducement to colonization, they had originally been offered cheap, uncleared woodland which could be cleared, and employment possibilities. The return of the surviving settlers after the World War to their old holdings in the new nation of Poland, and their difficulties since, are described.

Farm Labor

According to a Works Progress Administration report (18) "a century ago the production of an acre of wheat required nearly 60 man-hours; in 1896, with machine methods about 9 hours were required in the central winter-wheat belt; today, with the most modern machinery it requires less than 5, and in some regions not more than 2 or 3, hours of work."

As the introduction of improved varieties and more efficient methods of farming have kept per-acre yields constant in spite of soil depletion and other changes, the reduction in labor requirements per bushel of wheat is comparable to the per-acre deduction. The higher the prices and the more farm prosperity prevails, the greater will be the tendency to carry the process of mechanization further into all areas, especially the less specialized areas.

Mechanization of the production of wheat and other small grains began over a century ago with the introduction of the reaper, but labor released by this machine and the binder which followed was readily absorbed by expanding agricultural production. In the last two decades, however, mechanization has seriously affected agricultural employment and population. Tractors and combines have virtually done away with the seasonal demand for between 100,000 and 200,000 transient harvest laborers who in the second decade of this century migrated annually to the wheat fields of the Great Plains. This report describes in detail the many factors which contributed to these substantial reductions in the amount of labor required to raise the country's crops of wheat and oats.

Prospects are that employment in small-grain production will be still further reduced in the future. The number of tractors on farms increased by two-thirds between 1930 and 1938, mostly between 1935 and 1938. Also, sales of combines reached new highs in both 1937 and 1938. Most of these combines were of the smaller sizes, indicating that mechanization is going ahead rapidly on the diversified farms of the Middle West.

Adjustment of Migrants in Cities

The difficulties which some rural migrants to cities encounter are illustrated by data secured in a recent housing survey in Memphis. (51) All dwellings within the sub-standard areas of the city were rated as to quality, and some detailed information secured about the workers living there. Workers who had moved into the city from farms had poorer housing than those who had had no farm experience. In the best blocks of the area

only 10 percent of the workers were migrants, but in the poorest blocks more than half (56 percent) had moved into the city. Moreover, only 8 percent of the workers in the best houses in the best blocks of these areas were farm to city migrants, but in the poorest houses of those same blocks about one-third of the workers were migrants, and in the poorest houses in the poorest blocks three-fifths of all workers had moved from farms.

Corresponding to these differences in housing, there were relatively large differences in incomes, the farm to city migrants receiving the lower monthly rates of pay. For the entire group, the average earnings were \$37 and \$67 for migrants and non-migrants respectively. In the best blocks of sub-standard areas the differences were even larger, \$66 and \$103; in the poorest blocks the two figures were more nearly alike, \$31 and \$38. Differences persist among persons living in the same types of houses. Workers living in the best houses reported average earnings of \$57 and \$93. Only among those workers living in the poorest houses was the difference between workers who had moved in from farms and those who had not as little as 10 percent, \$30 and \$33.

These data apply only to residents of sub-standard areas of one city, but they do show clearly that migrants from farms to those areas were distinctly at a disadvantage in respect to income and housing when compared with persons who had lived only in cities.

NOTES

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Federal Notes

The Works Progress Administration has issued three short pamphlets summarizing in popular form the contents of research bulletins. The one entitled "Depression Pioneers," (15) deals with the materials presented in "Migrant Families," by John N. Webb and Malcolm Brown; "Rural Youth," by David Cushman Coyle, summarizes "Rural Youth: Their Situations and Prospects," by Bruce L. Melvin and Elna N. Smith; and "Rural Relief and Recovery," (10) by Rupert B. Vance, summarizes "Seven Lean Years," by T. J. Woofter, Jr., and Ellen Winston.

The delineation of rural-farm and rural regions and subregions within the United States has been completed by the Division of Research, Work Projects Administration, and should be available in published form within a few months. On the basis of carefully selected cultural indices, the counties of the United States have been classified into 218 rural-farm subregions. These in turn have been combined into 32 general rural-farm regions. Taking into account the characteristics of the rural-nonfarm population as well as of the rural-farm population, 264 rural regions have been delineated and combined into 34 general rural regions. With few exceptions the boundaries of the rural and the rural-farm regions are similar.

The regions and subregions have been used as the basis for the selection of typical counties. Three different sizes of samples have been selected for both the rural-farm and the total rural populations which may be utilized for extensive social surveys.

The Division of Research of the Work Projects Administration has completed a survey to provide a basis for evaluating the extent and character of unmet need in rural areas. Ten counties in 5 Southern States and 10 counties in 6 Northern and Western States have been included in the study. The data collected include employability composition of households, employment at the time of the survey, earnings, sources of both farm and nonfarm income, types and amounts of expenditures, and indebtedness, as well as personal characteristics of household heads and other members.

A Consumer Market Data Handbook for 1939 (27) has been issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. For each county and each place with a population of 2,500 and over, it presents 82 series of consumer-marketing data classified under five principal groups: Population and Dwellings, Volume and Type of Business and Industry, Employment, and Payrolls, Retail Distribution by Kinds of Business, and Related Indicators of Consumer Purchasing Power. Figures are given for the number of passenger automobiles registered per 100 families in 1936, families with radios in 1938, and the circulation of 12 national magazines for 1937.

The Bureau of the Census announces provisionally that there were 2,287,980 registered births in the United States in 1938, or 17.6 per 1,000 of the population. With this increase of 0.6 per 1,000 over 1937, the birth rate is now higher than at any time since 1931. The death rate for 1938 was 10.6 and the infant mortality rate, 50.9. The excess of births over deaths according to these figures was 906,994, as compared with 752,910 in 1937. These figures are taken from Vital Statistics Special Reports, Vol. 7, Nos. 47, 48, and 49, published by the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C., June 1939.

According to a release from the Division of Vital Statistics of the Bureau of the Census, there are marked differences between rural and urban areas, and the proportion of deaths that occur in hospitals and institutions. In the entire United States, for cities having populations of 100,000 or more, 53.1 percent of all deaths occurred in institutions. The corresponding percentages for cities of 25,000 to 100,000, cities of 10,000 to 25,000, and rural areas (including cities under 10,000) were 47.1, 39.7, and 19.3, respectively. Thus, in general, the percentage of deaths occurring in institutions decreases as urbanization declines. These data are from Vital Statistics - Special Reports, Vol. 7, Nos. 43, 44, and 45, published by the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C., June 1939.

The Division of Vital Statistics, Bureau of the Census, is issuing a, quarterly "List of Reports and Publications Relating to Vital Statistics." The most recent issue is dated June 20.

The National Resources Committee has issued a report of its Science Committee entitled "Research - A National Resource." The report points out that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937, the Federal Government spent approximately one dollar for each person in the United States for research. The \$120,000,000 spent in this field, however, represented only about 2 percent of the total budget, in contrast to industrial corporations which spend about 4 percent of their budgets on research and universities which spend as high as 25 percent of their annual budgets for this purpose.

The report includes 8 supporting studies: Summary of Memoranda on the Research of the Federal Government in the Natural Sciences and Technology; Summary of Memoranda on the Research of the Federal Government in Social Sciences; Federal Expenditures for Research, 1937 and 1938; Legislative Provisions Affecting the Research Activities of Federal Agencies; The Legislative Branch and Research; Research in American Universities and Colleges; Problems of the Bureau of the Census in their Relation to Social Science; The Library of Congress in Relation to Research.

State Notes

A. R. Mangus of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station is undertaking a study of Population Movements and Levels of Living in Ohio. Some of the more specific aims of the study are: to construct a more comprehensive measure of average levels of family living in Ohio counties than has heretofore been available, such measure to be sufficiently general to comprise an index of economic opportunity and social advantage; to delimit a single set of areas within the State, based on the composite level of living index; to study areal differences within the State with respect to birth rates, death rates, and rates of natural increase in the population; to study the interchange of population among the various level of living areas in order to determine the extent to which migrants move from relatively low to relatively higher level areas; and to establish a framework for further research and to locate and define problems calling for more intensive investigation.

The first report of the Michigan Country Life Association, "A New Day in Country Life," has been published as Number 2, Volume 34, Bulletin of Western State Teachers College, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The bulletin consists of contributions from 100 citizens of Michigan on various phases of rural life in the State and was edited by Ernest Burnham.

The Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station has begun a study dealing with housing conditions, work patterns, and related problems of Colorado sugar-beet laborers. In this study special attention will be given to a complex set of factors related to such problems as unemployment, relief, cultural disintegration, personal and social disorganization, juvenile delinquency, crime, inter and intra types of family, and community maladjustments.

The Department of Rural Sociology at South Dakota State College is sponsoring a survey of social conditions in the communities and the counties of the State. The objective is to collect and present social-planning data for the use of local, community, and county agricultural-policy committees, county agricultural agents and other interested persons, and agencies working in social planning. This study is to be the major activity of the Department during the fiscal year. It is planned to release county mimeographed reports that may be used to supplement material being gathered in the county agricultural land-use planning program. The work will be started in those counties in which intensive land-use planning is being carried on. As additional counties are designated, summaries are to be prepared for them also.

The Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station has begun a study in that State of migratory farm labor in the fruit, sugar-beet, and onion industries. Information is to be obtained largely through interviews with the laborers themselves, but additional data are to be obtained from representative proprietors and others acquainted with the problem. Information about placement, working conditions, mobility, family composition, and economic status is to be analyzed within the context of the problem which worker, employer, and community must face. This project is under the direction of J. F. Thaden.

Dr. Paul Honigsheim of Michigan State College is planning to make a study of the important immigrant groups in the rural parts of Michigan. The intention is to analyze the cultural background, ecological distribution, and distinctive social characteristics of these people as factors in their assimilation into the rural life of the State; to study the present degree of assimilation of these groups as indicated by their social organization and farming practices; and to study the extent to which the assimilation process has been reciprocal in nature so that the native rural culture has been altered while absorbing the immigrants.

The Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station is cooperating in a study of migratory laborers in the State. A schedule has already been obtained from migratory workers engaged in strawberry picking in the northwestern part of the State. Items were secured in regard to present living and working conditions, the previous employment record, wages, family labor,

and education of children. A schedule was also obtained from farm operators in regard to their need for seasonal labor. The study is being continued among workers in the peach industry and will later be carried over to cotton picking and other seasonal employments.

The Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station is planning a "Study of Factors Contributing to Success in Local Planning." Field work is projected in four counties that have intensive land-use planning programs. Another study in the same areas concerns "Rates of Social Change," under which it is intended to record and appraise recent and current social adjustments in areas of different types. A minor part of this project involves classification of social subareas in the State.

Harold Hoffsommer, at the Louisiana Experiment Station, is carrying on a study of tenancy and labor in the sugar-cane area. Schedules from 100 persons on sugar-cane farms, including operators, resident laborers, and harvest laborers, are now being analyzed. Closely related is a study concerning strawberry pickers in the Hammond, Louisiana, strawberry area. More than 350 schedules were taken during the past picking season. Most of the strawberry pickers work a part of the year in the cane fields.

The Louisiana Experiment Station reports a study of displaced tenants in which 500 families who formerly were residents on cotton farms and plantations were interviewed. The bulk of these are now living on small cut-over tracts on the edge of the upper Mississippi Delta. Reasons for leaving plantations, present status, and possible developments in the area to absorb additional numbers of these people are items of concern to the study.

The name of the Department of Rural Social Organization at Cornell University has been changed to Rural Sociology.

Dr. Leonard S. Cottrell, Jr. has been appointed Professor of Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences and becomes chairman of the new Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Cornell University. He will retain his position as rural sociologist at the Agricultural Experiment Station and will continue his research work in rural sociology.

Miss Josephine Strode has been appointed instructor at Cornell University and will give courses in social case work and problems of rural social welfare as well as supervise the practice work of undergraduate students with social agencies at Cornell University. During the past year Miss Strode has contributed an interesting series of articles to the

Survey Midmonthly magazine which it has published in pamphlet form under the title "The County Worker's Job." Robin Williams has been appointed instructor in Rural Sociology at the University of Kentucky.

The Washington Agricultural Experiment Station has established a new Division of Rural Sociology to take over rural sociological research.

Other Notes

"Barriers to Interstate Trade," a 6-page bibliography prepared by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, has been issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

The College of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Nanking held a "Farmers' Week" from February 22nd to 26th in cooperation with the National Agricultural Production Promotion Commission. Participants, totaling 268, came from the College's three extension districts, Jenshow, Wenkiang, and Sintu, and included representatives from various rural groups; namely, students from part-time schools for rural youth, farmers who have agreed to use their farms for demonstrations, members of 4-H Clubs, representatives of Farmers' Associations, students from agricultural schools in Sintu, apprentice extension workers, and extension staff members.

The group was divided into three sections for discussion: (1) for adult farmers, (2) for rural youth, and (3) for apprentices and extension workers. Some of these men walked as much as 80 miles in order to attend the sessions.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS Reviewed and Received

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Federal

(1) "Evolution of the Land Program of the United States Department of Agriculture," address by L. C. Gray, Bur. of Agr. Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Mar. 1939, 32 pp.

(2) "References on the Significance of the Frontier in American History," by Everett E. Edwards, Bibliographical Contributions, No. 25, Ed. 2, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Apr. 1939, 99 pp.

(3) "A List of American Economic Histories," by Everett E. Edwards, Bibliographical Contributions, No. 27, Ed. 2, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Apr. 1939, 43 pp.

- (4) "Rural Psychology: A Partial List of References," compiled by Margaret T. Olcott under the direction of Mary G. Lacy, Librarian, Bur. of Agr. Econ. Library, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Mar. 1939, 76 pp.
- (5) "Income Parity for Agriculture: Part II. Expenses of Agricultural Production," Bur. of Agr. Econ., AAA, and Bur. of Home Econ., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Apr. 1939, 45 pp.
- (6) "Family Income and Expenditures, Pacific Region: Part I. Family Income," by Day Monroe, et al., Misc. Pub. 339, U. S. Dept. of Agr., 1939, 380 pp.
- (7) "Plantation Organization and Operation in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Area," by E. L. Langsford and B. H. Thibodeaux, Tech. Bul. 682, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., May 1939, 92 pp.
- (8) "The Significance of Culture Patterns for Rural Planning Programs," address by P. G. Beck, Assistant Regional Director, Farm Security Admin., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., June 1939, 17 pp. (Mimeo.)
- (9) "Migrant Families," by John N. Webb and Malcolm Brown, WPA Res. Mono. XVIII, Washington, D. C., 1938, 192 pp.
- (10) "Rural Relief and Recovery" by Rupert B. Vance, Soc. Prob. No. 3, WPA, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1939, 32 pp.
- (11) "State Public Welfare Legislation," by Robert C. Lowe, Res. Mono. XX, WPA, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1939, 398 pp.
- (12) "Urban Youth, Their Characteristics and Economic Problems," Div. of Res., Ser. I, No. 24, WPA, Washington, D. C., 1939, 52 pp. (Mimeo.)
- (13) "Rural Families on Relief," by Carle C. Zimmerman and Nathan L. Whetten, Res. Mono. XVII, WPA, Washington, D. C., 1938, 161 pp.
- (14) "Former Relief Cases in Private Employment," by Joseph C. Bevis and Stanley L. Payne, WPA Special Rept., Washington, D. C., 1939, 23 pp.
- (15) "Depression Pioneers," by David Cushman Coyle, Soc. Prob. No. 1, WPA, Washington, D. C., 1939, 19 pp.
- (16) "Production Employment and Productivity in 59 Manufacturing Industries. Part I. Purpose, Methods, and Summary of Findings," by Harry Magdoff, et al., Rept. No. S-1, National Research Project, WPA, Philadelphia, Pa., May 1939, 150 pp.
- (17) "The Search for Work in Philadelphia, 1932-1936," by Gladys L. Palmer, Rept. No. P-7, National Research Project, WPA, Philadelphia, Pa., May 1939, 74 pp.

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FARM POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF FARM
POPULATION AND RURAL LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES COOPERATING

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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THREE BOOKS DEALING WITH PHILOSOPHIES OF RURAL LIFE

Three books which have recently appeared - and I would add a fourth if I had not recently reviewed C. C. Zimmerman's CHANGING COMMUNITY - give such serious consideration to what may be called the philosophical aspects of rural life that I want to call our readers' attention to them.

The first is Dwight Sanderson's and Robert A. Polson's RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. This is a book which we have all had a right to expect for some time from the hands of these two persons. It is a complete textbook on the rural community or community organization, but it is not that aspect of the book which I want to focus on in this more or less synthetic review of three books. It is the fact that the authors discuss, especially in the early and latter part of the book, the significance of the community as a way of life. They say in the first chapter, for instance, "The rural community exists, not by itself, but as a part of our whole social and administrative structure." In the final chapter, after quoting from the National Resources Committee Report on "Our Cities: Their Role in National Economy," they say, "This is an admirable statement of the problem of the city and also raises the issue of what are the values of the rural community, for the rural community with its village center and open country is the form of 'rurbanization' which seems to have the most promise for obtaining the values of a rural civic life, a unit of rural civilization."

I will not quote further from the book but call the readers' attention to the title of the last chapter, "Rural Community Organization in the National Life," which gives consideration to the type of thing which causes me to group this book with the other two mentioned here.

The second book is AGRICULTURE IN MODERN LIFE by O. E. Baker, Ralph Borsodi, and M. L. Wilson. Those of us who know these three men would expect from them polemics in behalf of the rural way of life. That is exactly what this book is, but it is excellently done and should be read by everyone, and especially should be read by those who are intrigued by what I would call the rationalizers' prescriptions for rural life. Dr. Baker presents the first ten chapters under the broad title "Our Rural People" but he by no means restricts his discussion to population data. His first chapter is entitled "To Rescue for Human Society the Native Values of Rural Life," and the ninth chapter is entitled "The Conservation of Human Resources."

Mr. Borsodi presents three chapters under the general heading "A Plan for Rural Life" in which he presents some of the details of his concrete experiment at Suffern and argues strenuously, and I think fairly successfully, against the extreme rationalizers. Those who do not know of Mr. and Mrs. Borsodi's experiment, have not read any of his books, nor followed his articles in "Free America" or elsewhere should have called to their attention the philosophy which he continually promotes.

The last three chapters are by M. L. Wilson, Under Secretary of Agriculture, with the general title of "Science and Folklore in Rural Life." Mr. Wilson has for the past five years been speaking and writing on this general topic and has probably had more influence in the field of agriculture than all the technicians in sociology, anthropology, and social psychology combined toward the end of inducing interest in the cultural aspects of agriculture. His three chapters are entitled "Patterns of Rural Cultures," "Folklore Farming and Scientific, Commercial Agriculture," and "The Search for New Rural Culture Patterns."

Part IV of the book records a dialogue among the three authors on the topic of "The Future of Rural Life." If the reader turns first to this dialogue, it can be said with assurance that he will not read any of the rest of the book until he has completed Part IV.

I have for years read everything, I guess, which these three men have written and want to say that there is included between the two bindings of this book the finest contribution from each of them that has thus far been made.

The third Book is MANIFESTO ON RURAL LIFE, published by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. Those readers who know the Catholic Church's deep concern and passion for rural life will find in this book just what they might expect; namely, a detailed argument in behalf of the values of rural life as they express themselves in the rural family, the rural community, integral rural institutions, and the spiritual values of agriculture and the rural way of living. Typical of the Catholic approach, the book covers practically all topics - economic, social, and spiritual - which have to do with agriculture: the family, tenancy, education, health, cooperatives, credit, taxation, et cetera, et cetera. The purpose of the book is definitely expressed in the last sentence of the Foreword, which says: "We hope that the Rural Life Movement will march forward with new strength and courage under the stimulus that has been given it by this Manifesto."

Carl C. Taylor

FARM PROBLEMS AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

"What can the Social Sciences contribute to the work of the Department of Agriculture?" This was the central question of a series of conferences called in the Spring of 1939 under the chairmanship of Under Secretary M. L. Wilson. Separate meetings were held with representatives of philosophy, agricultural history, cultural anthropology, political science, rural sociology, and social psychology to consider the contribution that each of these disciplines can make to an integrated approach by all the social sciences to the functions and problems of the Department of Agriculture. A principal hope was to find out how the social sciences might contribute to the development of agricultural planning and policy making and in the educational and research activities of the Department in general and of the reconstituted Bureau of Agricultural Economics in particular. The immediate purpose of the conferences was to acquaint workers of the Department with the nature of findings in these fields that might aid the process of agricultural planning and policy making and of efficient administration.

Given below are excerpts from the reports of the meetings of the cultural anthropologists and social psychologists and the final report of the rural sociologists.

Cultural Anthropology

The peculiar and distinctive characteristic of cultural anthropology is the understanding of the interrelatedness of the innumerable traits that make up a culture. The political scientist is content to look at what we are traditionally agreed to define as political behavior and political institutions. The economist is content to look at what we are traditionally agreed to define as economic behavior and economic institutions, and so on. The peculiar contribution of the cultural anthropologist seems to lie in that he says that no one of these disciplines is in itself sufficient to give us an accurate account of why things happen and why people behave as they do, and therefore no one of them is sufficient to answer even the "political" or "economic" problems with which they are chiefly concerned.

There is a need for investigation of social phenomena within relatively narrow and specialized fields. The specialities contribute data that aid our total understanding, even though we may sometimes wish they sought more consistently to relate themselves to the broader aspects of social life. Although cultural anthropology has tried to see the entirety of a culture, and has sensed the interrelatedness of phenomena within a given culture more consistently and more deliberately than other social science disciplines, cultural anthropologists are by no means the only ones who have held this view or sought this kind of understanding. And it should perhaps be said in passing that cultural anthropology is to an unusual degree indebted to the other sciences for materials it uses and has assimilated. What may be unique in cultural anthropology is the very emphasis it places upon recognition of the fact that human societies exist largely in terms of an organized body of institutions and customs that are traditionally transmitted, and that that body is a guide for the actions of the individual, a warrant and an authority for what he wants to do, and which seems to say to him: "This is right; that

is wrong. This is the reason why you should do this. This is the reasonable way to do this."

Furthermore, cultural anthropology assumes that from the raw materials of a culture that can be observed and experienced, one can abstract the motif of life within that culture. And that involves consideration of all aspects of life. That motif is, for instance, particularly manifest in the traditions, symbols, stories, myths, and valued objects and things which are emphasized in rearing and teaching the young. Out of the parts a whole can be discerned.

If one wants to understand what is happening in a particular phase of a culture, or to calculate the effect of a single new element introduced into a particular segment of activity within a culture, it is not enough to know only those things that are regarded as immediately relevant. For example, to understand the full effect of regulating a certain part of the economic order, as a policy of discouraging monopolies, or of taxing certain kinds of income in a new way, it is not enough to know what the economist can contribute. It is not enough even to know in addition what political scientists would contribute. It would be necessary to know the whole pattern of the culture - the family institutions, the sex mores, the religious patterns, the educational and intellectual institutions, all of the multitude of other things the cultural anthropologist is concerned with - before an analysis and interpretation could be rendered. This seems to include so much that it almost ceases to be practical as a method of social analysis and investigation.

But such a statement seems to carry things to an extreme. There was never a specialist within even the most restricted field of scientific investigation who knew everything about even that narrow speciality. Physicians who practice solely as diagnosticians may specialize as diagnosticians of the whole body or may specialize as diagnosticians of certain organs, certain parts of the body, or of certain ailments. None of these specialists knows everything about his field, yet they function usefully. And the general diagnostician is as valuable as the rest. If cultural anthropologists may be considered as social diagnosticians, it might be said that they specialize as scientific analysts of the whole. What is unique about their diagnosis is that, unlike economists, political scientists, and others, they try to take into account some view of all the cultural phases in a society. They are specialists in considering the whole and in the interrelationship of the parts.

If society is regarded as a problem-solving device, or problems-solving device, it is necessary to employ a point of view that can be made very useful. There are three kinds of problems that societies solve or try to solve. It makes no difference whether the society is a primitive hunting and gathering group in Australia, or whether it is a people devoted to commercial agriculture in modern America, or whether it is a highly sophisticated steel and electrical civilization in Chicago. The concept has worked for anthropological investigations among all these classifications. The first kind of problem is that of adjustment to the natural environment, and that means the problem of making a living and being comfortable with the natural resources at hand, and taking care of children and the older generations. This might be called, briefly and not too accurately, the problem of technology.

Next, there is the problem of how people relate themselves to each other so they get a fair degree of satisfaction and a minimum of conflict among themselves. This is the problem of social relationships. It includes the problem of adjusting the technology to the needs of the people. This in turn has two major phases. First, there is the problem of a division of labor in the handling of tools, and the division of the goods produced by their use. That is one function of social organization. That is, so to speak, the sphere of economics. The other problem concerns family behavior, or, more generally, the problem of relating the sexes together satisfactorily so they will reproduce and take care of the new generation, and give it a sufficient amount of the traditional culture to insure that it will not lose it. Within that second category is the system of values we live by, live for, and live with.

The third kind of problem that societies solve is that of adjustment of man's fate to the unknown. That kind of adjustment is one that all societies and all people make one way or another. It tends on the whole to integrate the rest of the society, if it is functioning well, because it provides a system of over-all beliefs, of absolute values and ideologies by which people live together.

Those are the three kinds of problems that all societies try to solve; and it is an interesting fact that the older, simpler societies frequently solved these problems better for their people by the standards of human happiness than do the more complex societies. It would be possible to lay human societies out in a range, beginning with the very simple undifferentiated type, over through the more complex societies, to one like ours, which would probably be the most complex. According to some criteria, it would be difficult to rank ours with others. But in a scale of complexity Australian primitives would belong to one extreme, and our society would belong to the other. Now, within that range certain things are apparent. The more complex the technology, the more complex the social organization tends to be. High technological development, increasing division and specialization of labor, complex social organization - all these things tend to foster elaborations of rank, caste, and class within a society. Homogeneity in a society with simple technology and simple social organization becomes heterogeneity in a highly developed technology with a complex social organization.

That brings up a very fundamental problem which should be considered in modern America, for it involves the problem of trying to maintain democracy. Some Australian aborigines are completely democratic peoples. Few others are. Other simpler people - the American Indians, for instance - were like that. In our contemporary American society there is a partial democracy, but it is not the complete democracy of simpler people. It is doubtful whether most people today want to be completely democratic. Yet the higher the division of labor, the greater is the need for efficiency of the several parts, and the greater is the need for relating the several parts to each other. Only this can prevent chaos, social maladjustment, and other similar things that worry Americans. The higher the division of labor the greater the heterogeneity of individuals and the greater are both the need and the difficulties of integration. And the difficulties of the anthropologist in analyzing the culture are correspondingly greater. It is still possible to make such studies - definitely possible - but more difficult because the problem is more complex.

Despite the fact that difficulties multiply as complexities grow, cultural anthropology, using its characteristic over-all approach, can make a study of a modern community. The degree of thoroughness of the study would depend wholly on the question. There has been a little intramural bickering on this point, yet it is now safe to say that the study should proceed just far enough to permit a correct answer to the problem. That is, the depth of the study would not be the same in all cases. Some questions of a general nature might be answered rather quickly, while others would require a very intensive study. The only constant factor would be the over-all point of view that insists upon the interrelationship of all phases of a culture, and therefore not only tries to see things as a whole, but realizes that both effects and determinants of such an item as an economic fact, ramify into spheres of life and activity that are religious, moral, familial, and so on. The application of this point of view is valid whether the culture in question is relatively simple, stable, and to a high degree integrated, or whether it is complex, in state of flux, and not well integrated.

In studying a community it is ordinarily not enough to learn the internal nature of that community, for its relation to other communities, and to the outside world generally, may be a crucial part of the situation. One of the greatest problems today seems to be a way of relating together on a satisfactory basis the people of different communities. Many a single community works out very well if left alone. But if it becomes related to another community, many things happen that break down the way of life which the people of the community had found satisfactory.

Legislative and administrative policies that are aimed to improve one phase of agriculture or farm life sometimes run into snags because they affect some other aspect of farm culture which had not been considered when the policies were formulated. When farmers change the way they plow their fields, or change from one to another crop, they are likely to have to change a great many other activities and habits. A policy aimed to accomplish a single good purpose may fail if it runs, either directly or indirectly, against some well established tradition or attitude. Moreover, a single good purpose may under some circumstances have total effects that are bad because the farmer, in altering his ways to accomplish the one good purpose, may disturb other good, established customs that would be better off undisturbed, and the total effect is then bad rather than good. It seems to follow that cultural anthropologists are, of all people, the most qualified to predicate the total effects of a given policy. And if that is true, any feasible means of enabling cultural anthropology to make this practical contribution should be considered.

There can be no general answers to general questions. There are no general propositions concerning the nature of society that are sufficiently specific and dependable to make possible a prediction of the outcome of any comprehensive program. Cultural anthropologists could, however, offer procedures and a point of view by which administrators could answer that question in regard to a specific program and a particular group of communities. Knowing the nature of the change under consideration, and the communities for which it is proposed, they could help predict probable effects. Wherever programs have already come into operation, they could go into the community and find out something of the total effect.

An awareness of the dimensions and ramifications of a problem may lead at first to bewilderment, but this is not all loss. It is a step beyond ignorance of their existence, and may be followed by clearing perception of their real nature. There are at least some cases where knowledge is already available upon the basis of which sound advice may be given. Generally, of course, the cultural anthropologist can contribute to the solution of a problem only when he is intimately familiar with the community in question. When that is the case, he can collaborate with the technical expert and the administrator. Technical experts are sometimes inclined to devise programs to bring about desirable technical improvements in a way that ignores some strongly established cultural factors. Then when the program fails, they say it is wholly unworkable. If, however, the program is properly adjusted to the prevailing culture pattern, it can be made a success. That sort of thing has actually happened with the Soil Conservation program among the Navajos in Arizona.

The viewpoint of cultural anthropology might disturb any expectations that a culture could be quickly, entirely, and painlessly made over. It should upset any notion that alleged bad features of a culture could be changed without some alteration of those features believed to be good. But cultural anthropologists do not hold a static view of society. It is known that cultures change, and that great interest is attached to certain phases of the dynamics of change. Furthermore, if as scientists the cultural anthropologists say that a given economic or technological change will alter the religious or family life of a community, it does not mean that they necessarily counsel against it. It would be merely a statement of fact, and value judgments would have to be made by others. All that would be insisted upon would be that those indirect effects would, or did, occur.

Within an integrated culture people must have something to live for as well as things to live with. That is a simple fact but vastly important. An integrated culture includes both a variety and a balance of cultural activities. To the people within the culture in question, having something to live for, having a variety and balance of institutionalized activities, and having all of these fairly well integrated into a way of life are vitally important matters. But that does not imply opposition to change, nor does it imply a failure to recognize the fact that change occurs. It simply implies a comprehension on the part of the cultural anthropologist as to the ramifications of what may superficially seem a simple, single alteration.

If the cultural anthropologists have any peculiar virtues as advisers in matters of reform planning or administration, it is because they recognize the interrelatedness of all aspects of the behavior of a group of persons. But their advice must be specific advice for a specific situation with which they are thoroughly familiar. There may be a few cases now where an anthropologist already knows a specific situation well enough to give competent scientific counsel. But ordinarily he would have to make a special study, for his field of competence is the local cultural unit, and such units differ almost infinitely. The precise nature, scope, and depth of the requisite study would be determined by the nature of the problem.

Social Psychology

The cultural anthropologists emphasized the role of culture as a determinant of the conduct of individuals and of social evolution. Their emphasis was upon the group. They are keenly aware of the traditions, the habits, the ways of thinking and acting, the customary ideas of good and evil, and of how things should be done, that in a blanket way shape the lives of individuals within a group. They conceive that in a relatively stable culture all phases of thought and deed shape into a pattern of interdependent parts whose interrelations are so complete that one aspect of the culture cannot be altered without shifting the balance and changing the character of the whole. They have demonstrated that, because of the complementary character of the traditional attitudes on the one hand, and the traditional ways of doing things on the other, within a stable culture the traditional ways seem the reasonable, natural, inevitable ways of doing them. Apparent reasonableness, naturalness, and inevitability proceed, however, simply from the fact that in the process of time all ways of thinking build up around customary actions. Accordingly customary thought makes customary actions seem right, and makes all other kinds of actions seem wrong. And everyone lives within the framework of some cultural pattern or other.

This concept that has been gained from cultural anthropology is very significant - so significant that it would be hard to exaggerate. It must be incorporated into other social sciences as an aid in solving their problems. But it is no more than a part of the many-sided picture which administrators and social scientists want to have. The psychologists say that the cultural concept is applicable to groups, but that it does not cover the individual variations within the group. They think in terms of the differences that exist between all the individuals within a culture group. The students of culture try to show how all the leaves on a maple tree are identifiable as maple leaves and cannot possibly be confused with leaves from an elm or an oak or a willow. Psychologists try to show how no two of the leaves on the maple tree are exactly alike, even though they are all distinguishable as maple leaves, and they explain what determines the development of individual leaves, why some are big and some are small, why some turn yellow and wither quickly while others flourish long.

One of the most basic problems arises out of the fact that experts sometimes have one way of looking at a given problem and people on the farm have a totally different way of looking at it. Experts have a so-called scientific point of view based on an over-all analysis that seems to them irrefutable. They don't tune in on the thinking patterns and point of view of the people they are dealing with. If the experts and the folk are to work together, a way must be found for bridging the gap that sometimes exists between them. Probably the experts have as much to learn as the persons affected by the plans. They need to learn that established customs and deeply rooted thought habits are forces that are as influential - as much worth respect and consideration - as any physical factors. Experts tend too much to be expert only in their special fields of knowledge and either ignore, or else dismiss as "irrational" or as unworthy of consideration, the powerful forces of institutionalized or personalized habits of thought and behavior.

The use of such words as "rational" and "irrational," "logical" and "illogical," "consistent" and "inconsistent" may be dangerous in view of the implications they evoke in the minds of those who are not psychologists. It is the common and ever-present assumption of this civilization in which we live that we are, or should be, what we call "rational." This means that we assume that whatever we do or whatever we think is supposed to be decided upon the basis of logic. A person is supposed to have a rational reason for everything. This belief is so strong and so fundamental that ordinarily to imply that an individual is motivated by anything besides reason is considered an insult, and to generalize that implication to cover all of mankind is regarded as cynicism. Actually, of course, it is considered an insult to attribute motivation to other things than logic only because we assume that people normally are logical. If we did not assume that, there could be no resentment against implications of mechanistic or other non-logical motivation. Psychology, of course, must assume some mechanistic motivation of behavior if it is to function as a science.

The technician, the expert, is presumably rational in his analysis of matters within the field of his peculiar competence. Outside of that professional field he is of course no more rational than anyone else. The point here, however, is that he is as subject as anyone else to the prevailing folklore which conceives human conduct as necessarily logical. This expert may, for instance, analyze in his professionally rational manner an agricultural problem, and propose a rational solution. The solution may be mechanically perfect, but when he proposes it, he finds it opposed by those whom it would benefit. They will not adopt it because it seems crazy to them. And he thinks they are crazy because they don't see the matter as he sees it.

Now it seems that in this hypothetical case - and there are hundreds of real cases that are essentially the same - the fault is with the expert. To the extent that he assumes invariably rational conduct he is in error, and that error makes unnecessarily difficult, or even impossible, the practical application of his technical knowledge.

A year and a half ago, about one thousand scattered farmers were asked two questions. One was whether or not they approved of the general policies set up by their county committees; the other was whether or not they thought the routine work of the county office was being handled well. The main result of those questions was the conclusion that farmers do not distinguish between those two functions. A farmer generally thought the committee and all its works were satisfactory, or else he thought they were all wrong. Whichever way it was, it was a general reaction. The distinction which was made in the questions turned out to be an abstract one that was real to public administrators but to few other persons.

It is possible that with a careful analysis of adequate data on such a situation, it might turn out that the professional or non-professional character of those who did the routine office work, or the personalities of the committeemen, had a very significant effect upon whether the blanket opinion was one of approval or disapproval. If an observer trained in social psychology could be put into an actual situation where such questions arise, he might secure significant data that would provide an answer.

Psychologists would agree that specific opinions such as those concerning tariffs and trade agreements may very frequently be considered more as symptoms than as causes. That is, those opinions are in reality merely the rationalization of underlying attitudes, and may not be at all a description of the basic attitudes that prompt such expressions. The feelings they reveal are genuine to the extent that they indicate the direction in which sympathy or antipathy is directed. Probably they indicate also the intensity of those feelings and emotionalized values which are psychologically very significant. But the reason why the feelings and values - which are the basic things - take the shape and direction they do is not necessarily explained at all by the overt expression of specific opinion. Almost everyone, whether he is a psychologist or not, has observed and understood this kind of behavior in the case of individuals he knows. Who is there who has not seen a mother-in-law belabor a daughter-in-law for things she would excuse - even defend - in her own daughter? These things seem, to the mother-in-law, the reasons for not liking her daughter-in-law, but everyone else knows that it is because of this dislike that the daughter-in-law's actions evoke criticism.

This is important because it should warn those in an administrative capacity to look beyond expressions of specific opinion, and not automatically to accept them as the basis for the feelings and sentiments they seem to express. Psychologists, moreover, have techniques and conceptual apparatus that enable them to deal fairly adequately with such phenomena, and penetrate to the more basic attitudes that are more properly considered as casual.

This sort of thing has considerable significance in analyses of public opinion as measured, for instance, by verbal responses to a schedule of questions, and in interpreting the verbal reactions of people to any kind of Government program.

The point about generality and specificity of attitudes deserves further emphasis. There has been some recent research concerning generality versus specificity in regard to certain political and social attitudes. Many experiments have been made in this field. In one case, high-school students answered questionnaires that tested first their responses to certain questions concerning generalized symbols, then their specific opinions concerning the application of those general attitudes. They were asked, for instance, whether they believed in freedom of speech. Most of them, of course, said they did. That was the generalized symbol. Later they were asked whether they favored permitting communists to speak freely. That was the specific case. And of course many that came out strongly for freedom of speech in general - as a symbol - did not want freedom of speech in this specific case.

Some attitude tests have been made among rural and small-town people to discover what differences might exist, even granting that verbal response is mental and is not likely to coincide with overt behavior. It was discovered that in certain kinds of material a verbal response will be nearer to overt behavior if the details of a specific situation are presented instead of a relevant but highly generalized question. There is a great discrepancy between paper and pencil, verbal behavior, and overt action, or even actual attitudes that people entertain privately. Measurements of attitudes based upon specific

situational definitions can come much closer to correlating well with overt action and real attitudes than measurements based upon generalized statements.

The problem of agricultural surpluses is one to which these considerations may be applied. Over the course of many years - of generations, in fact - we have developed in this country a tremendous production of certain agricultural commodities. That production plant was so developed because there were conditions that encouraged heavy production along certain lines. But over the last twenty years the conditions have been changing. There is no longer the need for as much of some commodities as there was. And because the need is less, there is less reward for that same quantity. Economists seek what they feel is a rational solution. They view the situation and say that there would be a rational adjustment of production and need. A few old-time economists say this should come about by letting things go; others say that there should be a conscious attempt to effect that adjustment. That's not very important, because that's mere economic theory; and regardless of economic theory the farmers, the people of this country, expressing themselves democratically, demanded that something positive be done about it. This maladjustment of production, however abstract it seemed to economists, meant hardship and sometimes tragedy to millions of farm people. There seemed to be a mandate to remedy this maladjustment, and control of production appeared to be the rational answer. That is the circumstance. The problem concerns what happened many times when these rational methods of production adjustment went into action. A great many times the necessary details of a rational production control seemed to run headlong against beliefs and ideas that are entrenched very strongly in our culture.

If, for instance, farmers who grew cotton or tobacco or wheat or raised hogs were to get an equitable reward for their labors, less of those commodities would have to be produced. In the early days of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration the hog market was glutted. So it was decided that the Government should buy up the surplus and have them butchered and distributed to people on relief. Well, that became "killing little pigs," and it seemed to outrage the feelings of millions of people. Obviously, most people do not examine the reasons and circumstances at all. They just think "killing little pigs," and that horrifies something deep within them.

Or take the case of surplus crops. Reducing production of some agricultural commodities meant that individual farmers had to reduce their acreages in these crops. Generally they have been permitted by their contracts, even encouraged, to grow other, soil-conserving crops. But they were not accustomed to growing the other crops sometimes and did not want to do it, so that meant idle acres. Idle acres were a kind of sin to them, and so the whole program seemed to go counter to moral and religious feelings.

There are millions of farm people that understand the program, and if a majority weren't for it, there wouldn't and shouldn't be such a program. But many good farm folks react to agricultural control programs more or less as indicated. In psychological terms, the programs up to now have not fitted into the frames of reference of those farmers. The question is, how could those frames of reference be democratically modified, or how could the programs be modified, and yet remain effective, so that there would be less conflict?

There cannot be any reliable and satisfactory answer to that question now. There is bound to be resistance to any changes that affect people's ways of living or that do not conform to their established ways of thought. The industrial revolution - which is really still going on - has for a century and a half or two centuries been uprooting old customs, old ways of doing things, and old ways of thinking. And it has encountered resistance right along. The medieval guild towns had laws against the introduction of new labor-saving devices. Mechanical innovations of that sort were considered the work of the devil. When labor-saving devices did begin to develop, they provoked riots among those who were thrown out of work or who feared being thrown out of work.

The institutional changes that were necessary to alter agriculture from its medieval to its modern pattern brought a long series of bloody peasants' revolts. Now, such illustrations as these are extreme in the sense that they indicate the more violent reactions that have occurred when very drastic institutional changes were in progress. But no change of any consequence ever came about without running into opposition. And because people generally integrate all of their social ideas with their moral ideas, opposition to social change generally expresses itself sooner or later as moral protest. There is going to be friction when any change at all occurs.

That friction can be lessened by education and by attention to and respect for customary habits and beliefs when programs are formulated. Psychologists and other specialists in human behavior might sit in with economic experts when programs are being formulated, and their advice might help to avoid unnecessary offense against entrenched beliefs and behavior patterns. Too much should not be expected immediately along this line, because there is not yet enough specific knowledge concerning the multitude of minute details of conduct that would be affected.

There is wonderful opportunity for research in this field. Properly trained observers watching the processes of change that are taking place in people's conduct because of Government programs that affect them have an almost unprecedented opportunity for studying social dynamics. All the questions concerning how social change takes place, how fast institutions may change, and how rapidly people's ways of thinking adjust to new circumstances and modes of living - all these and related questions, important not only academically but also to statesmen, administrators, and planners generally, have the chance now of being given answers as never before. When there has been continuous observation and analysis over a period of time of the changes that are now taking place, psychologists and social scientists generally should be able to take such a question as the one just put, and say something very dependable and practical about it.

Education in the hands of educators who do not themselves recognize the changes that are taking place can be an obstacle to social adjustment. Something of that sort seems to be the case in some of the education that concerns agriculture and rural people today. The most pressing needs of agriculture, which were formerly problems of agricultural technology, in the present generation have become problems of social and economic adjustment. This is obviously true. Yet in some sections of the country the authorized leaders, Extension agents, and teachers of agriculture are totally unprepared to cope

with the problems of education and leadership that the social and economic changes require. They are apparently very capable in disseminating the latest improvements in agricultural technology, but they are not prepared to assist people in discovering their place in the larger, interdependent society of today. A very substantial number of them are so attached to the social institutions of an age that is passing that they are actively hostile to the social adaptations to the new world that the technology they teach has in part created. This is by no means true everywhere but it is true in enough places to be worth considering. The rank and file of farmers in many places are more alert to what is going on in the world today than their appointed and self-appointed leaders. The farmers who are up against the gun of reality are less likely to cling to a folklore that no longer applies than are those who merely advise farmers and are not personally confronted with the new situation that the farmer himself faces.

Another problem arises in the work of rural rehabilitation where there is always the problem of how fast and how far to go in raising living standards and improving the conditions under which the clients live. For instance, a recent study in the Cotton Belt showed that colored farmers in the South think 8 or 10 percent is a fair rate of interest. Should they be charged that because they are used to paying that much or more? Or should they be charged only the regular rate of 5 percent for short loans, and 3 percent for long ones, because it is considered better for them? Should the furnishing system be stimulated and continued even though it is harmful to them, simply because that is what they are used to, and being used to, like it?

In housing and sanitation it is the same. Shall people be continued with inadequate housing and unsanitary conditions that breed poor health and disease simply because that is what they are used to, and, believe it or not, in many cases prefer simply because they are used to it; or because some other persons have never seen them living decently and don't think they should? Or should they be given better conditions, rather than what they at first think they want?

If it is sound psychology that we learn by doing, it is not only good theory but proved fact that people who never before even had a privy, and wouldn't want one, develop customs of using them and even of insisting on them if they are put in a situation where for a time they have to use one. That has happened. It seems that two administrative alternatives are offered in such a situation. One is to discover what people like, and develop policy accordingly. The other is to discover what the administrator thinks the people ought to have, and develop policy that way. Should we not entertain the idea of trying to develop ways and means by which these people can become self-critical, critical of their situation and of what they like? Out of this might come a redefinition of old standards into new standards. In that way, what the administrator would like to impose - granted he were right - might become the wish and the demand of the people themselves.

One other means would be by a leavening process rather than by trying to impose a reform upon everybody all at once. A single family that is respected and has influence might be won over to a new idea or a new practice. If it is a case of a privy or a bathroom, begin by giving a privy or a bathroom to just one selected family that is receptive to the idea. It might well develop that soon others would want this new thing. The educational process would then

have been completed and the new habits would be built upon voluntary choice, rather than upon imposition from above.

News is very important as an agent to change established attitudes. People's attitudes are changed, frequently and sometimes greatly, by new forms of experience. News can be considered a form of experience. But the distinction must be made between news on the one hand and argument or high pressure salesmanship or propaganda on the other. Generally one cannot convince a man to try something new simply by a barrage of argument. But if he learns that some one else is trying it, and that it is successful, he may want to try it. This is news, and news changes people.

It is important to recognize that the urbanization of our rural and farm life, that has now been going on for a long time, involves many drastic changes, both of overt behavior and underlying attitude. In the industrial development of the western world it was through private industry and enterprise and interests that the small towns and people migrating from the country were brought into a radically different pattern of urbanized, rationalized life. The word "rationalized" is used in the German technological sense. Today public as well as private agencies are imposing urbanized, rationalized ideas and institutions upon the farmer. Government is now doing to the farm what private industry was doing to the town a century ago.

There is a great deal of truth in that. But the problem is something like this. There is evidence that our farm people want and demand something they do not have. It is agreed they should have it. Yet for all the evidence of this and all the agreement, there is no certainty as to what measures really coincide with the rather inarticulate demands. Obviously not all farm people want the same thing. Legislation is, and should be, a compromise of demand pressures and inertias. It cannot possibly correspond perfectly to the desires of a group, even when that group is completely articulate - which in this case it isn't. Administrators have some latitude of alternative policy. They try to decide which suits the people best, or which is best for the people. They must be forever aware of the fact that neither what they think the people want nor what they think is best for the people is necessarily what the people demand or will accept. Furthermore, it can hardly be emphasized too much that these individual frames of reference mentioned may be of such a nature that a particular policy that seems wholly desirable and rational to an administrator will utterly destroy them. Something that in the abstract or in statistical averages and so on looks perfectly feasible and good may in the case of a specific individual spell destruction and tragedy. That is the reason why social psychology can function to help administrators and economists and others who by inclination or by the nature of their work see the general or abstract or technical rather than the intimately human side of things.

The general sense of insecurity and uncertainty that so many people face today should be emphasized because it is a social driving force of tremendous proportions, and social psychology has some concepts and techniques that may help to judge the channels in which it is likely to find an outlet. There is very naturally a strong general tendency upon the part of people who are victims of this insecurity and uncertainty to rationalize it in terms of their

particular local situation, and in terms of their personal circumstances. Their frustrations and their sense of insecurity express themselves in the language they hear over the radio or what they read in the newspaper. The issues that they articulate are those suggested by their immediate experience, or described verbally by some source of information that they happen to trust. These are rationalizations, and underneath them lie deeper values and frames of reference that need further examination.

Administratively and practically, the problem of how rapidly people accustom themselves to new patterns of behavior and new scales of value by the very process of experiencing them becomes one of how far opinions, attitudes, and frames of reference can be changed by altering the overt, concrete behavior of people. If the farmer honestly feels he has something to live for, some goal to work toward, and some chance of attaining that goal, he will be happier and better fitted to withstand the difficulties of the present.

Rural Sociology

At the conclusion of each discussion a committee of the group prepared a report, summarizing the discussion and making recommendations. The report on the Relation of Rural Sociology to the Action Programs is given in full.

Relation to Community and Land-Use Planning

Recognizing the limitations of rural sociological research up to now, and knowing that beyond our existing knowledge of rural life lie many perplexing problems which have not been attacked, the rural sociologists are confident that they have certain factual information, techniques of study, and points of view which will enable them to be of material service to county and community agricultural planning. They welcome, therefore, the opportunity to assist in working out methods and processes of rural organization for effectively meeting the fundamental problems with which American agriculture and rural life are now confronted.

It is recognized that county and community agricultural planning is primarily an extension function in rural social organization. However, for its successful operation this extension function requires the help of the research worker in rural sociology. In answering the question "What can the rural sociologist contribute to agricultural planning?" it is apparent that, first of all, the facts concerning the local situation will be needed. The obtaining of needed social facts is, therefore, the first contribution the rural sociologist can make. But, what are these social facts? Categorically, if roughly, they include the following:

I. The Social Facts for Planning

(1) Facts concerning the population itself - such as, age distribution, sex composition, marital and civil status, racial and cultural composition, fertility rates, morbidity and mortality rates, mobility patterns, nature of family organization and attitudes, the density and distribution of the people on the land.

(2) Socio-economic stratification: Class distinctions and their sources, social poverty and dependency, and other socially inadequate groups; distribution of farm laborers, croppers, tenants, owners, and culturally heterogeneous groups.

(3) Socio-economic status: Income levels, nature and sources of incomes both as to family income and farm income, incomes possible, indexes of levels of living by areas, and uses made of incomes in satisfying family wants. (In this area the rural sociologist has a contribution in common with the economist.)

(4) Institutional agencies and services: The available schools, churches, health agencies, local government, interest organizations and groupings, recreational agencies and opportunities. These form part of the level of living and in part limit or condition the plans to be made. They raise the question of how to get the best services with least cost and within the possible income of the area being planned.

(5) Service centers: What are and what should be the places for local institutional and service centers, and their relation to the location of high schools, marketing facilities, roads, etc., and what are their relations to and how are they influenced by the cities and larger towns of the area?

(6) Community areas: What are the community and neighborhood areas? Can they be maintained or will they need to be changed? This involves the consideration of community and neighborhood bonds, tensions, and sources of inter-community conflicts and cleavages.

(7) Psycho-social backgrounds: Traditions, customs attitudes, desires of the people which condition their attitudes toward planning and social improvement.

(8) Cultural and social change: What are the factors which are forcing changes in the local social situation, such as the mechanization of agriculture, invasion or depletion of industries (mining, lumbering, etc.), better communication, the changes in economic organization, and the amount of distribution of the national income, etc.?

These classes of information are necessary because experience has shown that without them planning procedures often fail of their objectives. Areas of high population density need different direction than localities from which people are migrating. For countries with low levels of living to plan with regard to their desires rather than their immediate possibilities is unrealistic. Such areas may well envisage a longer planning and action process than their prosperous neighbors. Institutions and groups of all kinds must be located and appraised because they represent existing arrangements which have a claim on the loyalties and service of the people: to ignore these is to affront powerful groups, arouse suspicion and antagonism and defeat the very ends of the democratic process. This is especially true with reference to planning for the modification, reorganization, or relocation of institutional

or service centers, for habitual arrangements can only be changed when those who have a vested interest in them can see benefit in change. Not only must the local social situations be considered, but the committees must be made aware that wise planning must be done within the framework of culture of larger culture areas. Such insight begins with knowledge even though it ends in decision after discussion. Finally, plans once launched, the agencies and services revamped will inevitably tend to institutionalize themselves and after the sociologist's initial and potentially considerable contribution, he must help in the study of the changes and in the continual replanning that the very success of the venture should inevitably make necessary. Many of the essential facts are known to the members of the local committees or can be ascertained by them, but the sociologist can help in bringing them out, by raising the questions, steering the discussion, and revealing their significance. Because this type of data is essential and affects the whole aim and process of planning, the sociologist should be on the college advisory committee (along with the economist).

II. Techniques. Because of his research and his experience with social organization, the sociologist is in a position to make a contribution to the techniques of planning and executing action programs.

(1) He can show the local planning committee how to obtain the necessary social facts; he can obtain data not easily available to them; he can aid in assembling the information and in putting it in proper form for presentation to the people of the community. For example, in the case of Population, he may assist the local committee in bringing to it census materials and other official data. He can show them how to determine and map the area and the organization and structure of the communities and neighborhoods, how to map the service areas of schools, churches, and business establishments. He can show how to obtain the number, location and cost of relief cases. He can perform such expert service for the committee as the computation of fertility ratios, death and morbidity rates; the determination of measures of economic status and standard of living; and the calculation of population trends, migration rates and probable changes in the composition of the population. Many similar illustrations could be given in other areas.

(2) He can assist in the analysis and interpretation of collected data for the purpose of defining the problems of the area and also in presenting and interpreting the findings to the people of the community.

(3) Because of his special knowledge of group processes he can assist in the creation of good local committees and in developing and maintaining helpful relations between the committee and its local constituency. More specifically, he can help -

a. To set up county or local committees in such a manner that the members will be chosen in a democratic manner, that all interests will be represented and that the committees will obtain the support of their constituencies.

He can also inform the committee of the plans and policies of other non-agricultural public agencies, Federal and State, and see that they are brought into consultation.

b. To carry on group discussion of the issues. Group discussion is a technical process and the sociologist is familiar with the methods of carrying it on successfully.

c. To carry the findings and recommendations of the planning committees to the various local communities, to assist in the translation of the findings into effective programs of local action which will result in community accomplishment.

d. To discover, develop and utilize lay leadership and maintain understanding and cooperation between lay and expert leaders.

e. To impart to professional leaders, such as county agents and extension specialists, a better understanding and appreciation of the social facts and problems involved in planning. This may be done by means of short courses, conferences and other in-service training.

The above contributions of the sociologist will also give him opportunity to collect data concerning social situations, the processes of social organization, etc., which, if adequately and carefully recorded, should furnish him invaluable material for continuing research, and aid in this work in the future. It was also suggested that it might be helpful to prepare a brief handbook of suggestions for county land use committees with regard to the social data to be considered and methods of organization and procedure. This might be prepared jointly by rural sociologists, social psychologists, anthropologists, and others concerned.

Other Services to the Action Programs

Besides his service to the planning committees, the sociologist may be of considerable direct service to the action programs in other ways. Thus he may interpret to farm and home supervisors of the Farm Security Administration those techniques of social work which may be utilized to advantage in the rehabilitating of rural families. While the improvement in techniques of direct approach to the family by the supervisors is not to be neglected, emphasis would be placed upon bringing to bear upon the family the influence of all the resources or agencies in the community, such as the church leaders, the school teacher, scout master, and others. He may also assist in the necessary in-service training of the supervisors with regard to the techniques of family case work and rural community organization.

Research That is Basic for the Policies and Methods of the Action Programs

To have a factual basis for the determination of policies, and for obtaining knowledge which will facilitate local planning and social organization in the future, it is necessary that fundamental research on the social or human aspects of rural life be greatly increased.

Rural Sociologists are relatively few in number and the amount of data in their field is limited as compared with that in farm management. Without the accumulation in the last 30 years of a vast amount of farm management data, planning an agricultural program would not be possible. Sociological research is about where farm management research was 15 or 20 years ago.

A resume of research in Rural Sociology has recently been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (The Field of Research in Rural Sociology), which outlines the fields in which research is now carried on and is most needed.

Among the more important areas of research whose results should directly affect the action programs, and the whole program of the improvement of agriculture and rural life, are the following:

- (1) The types of families on marginal and submarginal land, describing the conditions of the disadvantaged classes and ascertaining the causes of their condition.
- (2) Rural poverty and its causes.
- (3) Measuring the success of rehabilitation, including an evaluation of the work of the Farm Security Administration with different types of families.
- (4) The problems, status, and relationships of the rural non-farm population in rural industrial, part-time farming, and similar communities.
- (5) The interaction and interrelations of the farm and rural non-farm populations, especially with reference to villages.
- (6) Effect of high proportion of tenants on communities and their institutions, and on the personal status of the tenant family.
- (7) Farm laborers and their place in agriculture and in the community, including conflict of farm operators, farm labor, and organized labor in industry.
- (8) Population pressure. Amount of overpopulation in certain areas, why does it occur, and what measures or processes will reduce it.
- (9) Selective rural-urban, urban-rural migration - Are the best young people leaving rural communities, and how can this be accurately determined and measured?
- (10) Community diagnosis to reveal their distinctive individuality and the nature of their organization as a basis for community planning.
- (11) Recurrent surveys of standard of living in sample areas to get at trends, to show the relative status of rural living as compared with that of those engaged in other industries, and for comparing different sections of the country.

- (12) The determination of culture areas and their characteristics from both statistical and anthropological approaches. This will give data of value in local planning for counties in whole areas, and may be used as a basis for showing areas into which or from which migration might be encouraged.
- (13) Effect of social change, factors influencing it (such as mechanization, migration, and urbanization); how to influence it and how it affects the planning program.
- (14) Farmers' movements, and their relation to the action programs.
- (15) Rural leadership - What it is: how it arises: how it can be developed: its role in the action programs.
- (16) A study of the nature and effectiveness of the groups set up in the action programs and to what extent they produce a democratic system of social control.
- (17) Continuing study of the effect of these programs upon the organization of the rural community, and the orientation of individuals and families to their local groups.

Such a research program may be most efficiently and economically conducted if much of it is carried on cooperatively with the rural sociologists of the State agricultural experiment stations. The Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics should furnish leadership in the whole research program, should assist in standardizing methods and in the presentation of results so far as is desirable, and should summarize and interpret the results of various investigations on the more important topics, so as to bring out generalizations applicable to the whole country.

It should be emphasized that much of the research outlined above has large practical implications both for the agricultural action programs and for other public agencies. The county health units of the Social Security Administration could apply it. Educators are already using the present product and are asking for more help in the relocation and consolidation of school districts both as administrative and attendance units. Social work and relief agencies need the appraisals. They too frequently are too burdened to conduct research themselves.

Personnel. The rural sociologists in the States are mostly engaged in teaching and research. Extension staffs in rural sociology are very small. If they are to assist in the county planning work, they will need additional men for field work and for obtaining and assembling data.

If the Bureau of Agricultural Economics or the Experiment Stations are to do the additional research needed in the more important fields, additional staff will be needed.

RESEARCH REPORTS

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Population 1/

The report "Rural Migration in the United States" (8) reveals that, in spite of a constant shifting between the country and the city, migration offers no general panacea for the problems of rural areas and that the unguided migration of the past has not prevented the need for relief. Only by the combined effect of directed migration, reduced birth rates, and improvement of social and economic conditions in general within overpopulated areas can the long-time problems of widespread need in rural areas be solved.

During the decade 1920-30 the total rural population increased by less than 5 percent. But if there had not been a heavy net migration cityward, the increase would have been more than three times as great, or approximately 16 percent. During the depression the movement was greatly slowed down, piling up rural population in some sections. The effect of migration varies widely from one part of the country to another, with most sections having lost more rural migrants than they gained from 1920 to 1930. The Pacific coast was the principal exception, having a heavy increase in rural population. In all, 2,542 counties lost rural population through migration while only 517 counties gained population through migration.

The depression of recent years has greatly affected the patterns of migration. With urban employment curtailed, many persons moved back to the country, often to the poorer agricultural areas or to small farms on poor land near cities. The movement was in the nature of an exchange of people, with approximately 6,600,000 persons moving to farms from 1930 through 1934 and 7,200,000 persons moving from farms. Thus, as a result of this wholesale interchange of population between farm and non-farm areas there were only 600,000 more persons who moved from farms to villages, towns, and cities than moved in the opposite direction during the 5 years. Consequently the population on farms piled up in those areas where the birth rate far exceeds the death rate.

The fact that no single factor determines whether people will decide to move is emphasized. An examination of mechanization, quality of land, per-capita agricultural income, plane of living, and distance to cities showed that their effect on migration is largely indirect. Choice of conflicting alternatives often determines whether or not a family or individual eventually decides to change residence.

In special studies of approximately 22,000 rural families in 7 States by field interview the extent of movement and the characteristics of the fami-

1/ Complete citations will be found in the bibliography, beginning on page 31.

lies were analyzed. The least movement was reported by families in the areas of oldest settlement. Of those who had moved the great majority had moved only once, most frequently from another residence within the same county.

Families on relief were found to have moved more frequently than those not on relief, but the non-relief families were more likely to move long distances. Problems of relief have been found to be closely associated with important population movements. Areas receiving large-scale migrations, such as the Far West, have found the migrants a burden with which the relief agencies have been unable to cope adequately. Residential requirements for public assistance and the differences in policies of distributing relief have also had a significant effect upon currents of migration within the last few years.

Young people move more frequently than older people, and women at a younger age, on the average, than men. During the depression of the early 1930's, however, young people stayed at home to a considerably greater extent than formerly. When they did move, they were more likely to move shorter distances than those who migrated before January 1929 and were more likely to move to the open country.

A study (50) which is "an intimate account of the adjustments of 381 families entering the State of Washington between January 1, 1932, and August 20, 1938, chiefly from the area designated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration as the 'Drought States'" presents a discussion of the problems peculiar to the initial stages of adjustment of families migrating from the drought areas of the Great Plains to the State of Washington, and makes suggestions for the solution of those problems. The study "suggests that inter-regional farm migrants with capital for acquiring a sound farm unit are likely to succeed; others are likely to fail." Social maladjustment was found to be very closely connected with economic status inasmuch as the low levels of living of the newcomers precluded participation in community life.

The "Composition and Characteristics of the Agricultural Population in California" (30) is the subject of a detailed analysis of Census data reported in Bulletin 630 of the California Agricultural Experiment Station. The United States Census classifies the total population by residence as urban and rural and further subdivides the rural into those living on farms and those not on farms. Starting with these data, as well as those showing occupation and industry of the gainful workers, information was secured about the total number of persons dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood. The rural farm population as reported by a census taken in either January or April would not give the total population dependent upon agriculture, for many farm laborers would be living in towns and cities at that time. Moreover, many persons living on farms are not engaged in or dependent upon agriculture. Thus, although the rural farm population of California on April 1, 1930, was reported as 579,350 and the total farm population was 620,506, the author concludes that the total agricultural population was 877,373, of whom about 40 percent were not living on farms on January 1, 1930. In order to arrive at this estimate it was necessary to work with the classification of gainful workers, based on the individual's report of his usual occupation as given by the Population Census, and the allocation of only one farm operator per farm as given by the Census of Agriculture.

Farm Labor

"Migratory Cotton Pickers in Arizona," (10) based on a field study of 518 migrant groups who were at work in Arizona during January and February 1938, describes examples of exaggerated advertising to attract workers, meager pay, unsanitary living conditions, and social barriers erected against migrants as typical of conditions existing among migratory workers of the Southwest. Of the migrants studied, 54 percent came from Oklahoma, 17 percent from Texas, and smaller proportions from Arkansas and neighboring States. The majority came to Arizona because it was presented to them in one way or another as being a promised land.

Since native labor is neither adequate to meet the demands during the height of the cotton-picking season nor particularly eager to work in the cotton fields, growers attract large numbers of workers from outside the State. Growers' associations began experimenting as early as 1912 with mass importations of cheap labor, usually Mexican. Since 1929 the Arizona cotton growers have depended largely on migratory cotton pickers from the western cotton States. Although in 1920-21 approximately \$300,000 was spent to secure a cheap labor supply of 20,000, in 1937 the greatest single expense in recruiting 30,000 workers was an item of about \$900 for want ads in newspapers. The recruiting campaigns, which reach into several States to the east, utilize not only want ads but also advertising, handbills, newspaper publicity, a word-of-mouth "grapevine," and occasionally the radio. Invariably the pickers are promised good pay, high yield per acre, good living conditions in the camps, and a healthy climate. The average earnings for each picker ranged from \$1.20 to \$1.50 a day, and from about \$6 to \$8 a week during the picking season. Large families with four workers or more averaged \$18 a week.

The report states that the usual Arizona camp is a crowded, filthy, makeshift collection of shelters, frequently lacking even elementary sanitary facilities. Some are described as "good," but most of them consist of tents over floorless wooden boxes. The cotton pickers' diet consists mostly of cheap starchy foods with almost no meats or milk for the children, and it is generally believed that the rate of illness and mortality among migratory cotton pickers is high.

The migrants' plans for further movement after the end of the Arizona cotton season reflect their bewilderment and hopelessness. Most of them eventually drift into California, where they seek work in a labor market already glutted with migratory workers.

The report concludes, "It seems unnecessary to argue that the migrant is essential to the present scheme of agriculture that obtains over large areas of the Southwest. It should also be unnecessary to argue that a public responsibility exists to tide these essential workers over the periods when, through no fault of their own, they temporarily lack the necessities of life."

"Arizona's Farm Laborers," (27) a study based upon interviews with 1,500 families living in four of the State's largest irrigated valleys in 1936, led to the following conclusions: (1) over one-half of the heads of households were

of Mexican origin from southern Arizona or Sonora, one-third were whites from the Cotton Belt and other States, and the remainder were Indians, Negroes, or Orientals; (2) two-thirds lived in the open country, one-third in towns; (3) most farm laborers lived in clusters or villages rather than isolated homes; (4) through October into November during cotton picking 45,600 laborers were employed, 20,000 of whom came from outside the State; (5) by March only three out of every five resident laborers were needed as hired laborers; (6) Arizona's Indian population supplied from 1,000 to 2,000 farm laborers during peak seasons.

Education

"An Analytical Study of a Rural School Area" (41) including 827 homes of white families in 10 school districts of northwest South Carolina compares school achievement of grade and high-school pupils in rural, urban, and college communities. The incomes and levels of living of the families were low but school facilities and attainments were even of a lower order. For example, standard achievement test grade scores indicated that the reading ability of the rural seventh-grade pupils was from three to four years lower than that of the seventh-grade pupils in non-rural schools. Almost one-half of all rural pupils had repeated one or more grades, the chief repeaters being from tenant families. Teachers in most cases were hired because they were relatives of trustees, not because they were qualified. Consolidation of the small district schools is recommended. Data concerning family levels of living, income, population, school management, and finance are included.

"Educational Service for Indians" (24) gives a picture of present Government policies with respect to Indian education and relates them to the administration of Indian affairs in general, both past and present. "Before 1929 the policy of the Indian Service had been to utilize the schools and their instruction as a means of removing the children from the influence of tribal life and introducing them to white civilization as rapidly as possible. Under recent administrations, however, the policy has been to bring the schools to the Indians and adapt the instruction to their needs. The objective is no longer merely personal improvement or intellectual discipline; it is distinctly social in purpose." This is in keeping with the abandonment by the Government of attempts to force upon the Indians the ways of the white men, and the recognition of the necessity for fostering the protecting tribal life on the reservations.

A bulletin of the Advisory Committee on Education (22) compares the extent and quality of educational opportunities offered the Negro with those offered the white children in the 17 States (and the District of Columbia) where complete segregation of schools for the white and Negro races is required by law. "The indexes utilized in this investigation point consistently, in practically every field, to a relatively low standard of public education for Negroes in the Southern States. In general, and especially in rural areas, Negro elementary pupils attend extremely impoverished, small, short-term schools, lacking in transportation service, void of practically every kind of instructional equipment, and staffed by relatively unprepared, overloaded teachers whose compensation does not approximate a subsistence wage. The vast majority of pupils progress through only the primary grades of these schools. The few who finish

the elementary grades find relatively little opportunity, especially in rural areas, for a complete standard secondary education. Opportunities for education in public undergraduate colleges are even more limited, and opportunities for graduate and professional study at publicly controlled institutions are almost non-existent. In most special and auxiliary educational programs and services - public libraries, vocational education, vocational rehabilitation, agricultural research, and agricultural and home economics extension - the same low standards obtain. Only in the case of one or two Federal emergency programs is there an approach to proportional provision of public education for Negroes in these States."

The National Education Association has compiled data (54) concerning the income, professional status, sex, marital status, family responsibilities, living conditions, and cultural and recreational opportunities of rural teachers, both white and Negro. The average salary of the white teachers studied was \$876; of the Negro teachers, \$346. Three-fourths of the white teachers and four-fifths of the Negro teachers are women, and the average number of dependents is one for the white teachers and two for the Negroes. Only two out of five white teachers have access to a good library, and usually the Negro teachers have access to no libraries. The report is based on 11,298 usable returns from rural-school teachers in 265 counties in 20 States.

"The Land Grant Colleges" (23) gives a brief description of the reasons for the development of such institutions and the scope of their activities. Following a resume of the various acts providing Federal aid for resident instruction there is an outline of the scope of the Resident Educational Program of the Land-Grant institutions. There are similar analyses relating to the work of the experiment stations and the Agricultural Extension Service. Tables show the source and distribution of funds, the division of time among the various subject matters by county agents, the number and characteristics of the professional personnel engaged in this work, salary scales, ratio of workers to population, and the number of persons reached, as well as funds and facilities devoted to work among Negroes. Special attention is given to the extent to which the various programs are conducted for the benefit of Negroes. The problems of Federal-State relations, relations of the Extension Service to operating agencies and to farmers' organizations, as well as problems of financing, are discussed in detail.

Cultural Areas

"Rural Social Areas in Missouri" (37) have been delimited by statistical techniques similar to those previously used for Ohio. Since correlation analyses indicated that an index based upon Census data relevant to farm family living was most closely related to other factors pertaining to population, institutions, and economic conditions, this index was used to divide the State into six major areas of relatively homogeneous planes of living. These major areas were subsequently broken up into smaller areas on the basis of the percentage of tenancy prevailing. These areas will assist action and research agencies in choosing homogeneous cultural areas for research programs. Methods of establishing indexes and characteristics of the major and minor areas are described.

Part-Time Farmers

The "Social Characteristics of Part-Time Farmers in Washington" (51) are described in a study based upon survey records taken from 1,814 families in 1934. As in previous studies in Iowa, Connecticut, California, and Pennsylvania, the part-time-farm population contained an abnormal proportion of middle-aged and large families, indicating a quest for security on the part of families during that stage in the family-life cycle when security is most needed. Also, the proprietarial and managerial occupations and clerks and kindred workers were under-represented but laboring classes over-represented, indicating the realization of insecurity on the part of laborers.

The farmers studied in the eastern counties lived an average of 3.6 miles from work, those in the western counties 5.6 miles, and transportation cost more (22.5 percent of all expenses) than any other expense item except groceries. The farm contributed to family living an average of \$150 over operating expenses.

Soil Conservation

Interviews with and farm records of over 500 farmers who were cooperating with the Soil Conservation Service in 1937 form the basis of a study entitled "The Farmer Looks at Soil Conservation in Southern Iowa." (31) Over 90 percent of these farmers reported that the SCS had reduced sheet and gully erosion. Fifty percent indicated that the program had already increased their production, and all but 5 percent expected an increase from the program. Practically all farmers claimed the program had increased the value of their farms, the average increase being \$5.44 per acre. Most of the farmers believed the AAA and SCS programs should be combined - that AAA alone cannot control erosion but that the SCS program was sufficient. Other attitudes and facts about the two programs and their results are included in the report.

Relief

"A Comparative Study of Certain Relief and Nonrelief Households in Selected Areas of Rural Maryland" (33) reports the findings of a survey of 788 households, 341 of which had received public relief between 1932 and 1936. Relief households were larger and included more dependents. A smaller percentage of relief households reported ownership of real estate and their equities were less; fewer of them had life insurance policies, bank accounts, automobiles, but a larger proportion of them had personal debts. Persons in relief households had had less educational training. Gainful workers in relief households were more likely to have been employed as unskilled workers or servants and to have been employed less regularly. In general, Negro households on relief differed from those not on relief in the same way as white relief and non-relief households.

EXTENSION REPORTS

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Fifty women representing agricultural, industrial, labor, and consumer groups met, in Dallas, September 28-29 to discuss agricultural policies of concern to rural-urban homemakers. The conference was called by the Texas Extension Service cooperating with the State Agricultural Conservation Committee and the Department of Information of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

County Home Demonstration Councils in Texas consist of the presidents and elected delegates from each home demonstration club together with the officers and chairmen of special standing committees. This year 5,540 council members are helping to plan and carry out activities relating to home demonstration work. Special standing committees are usually education, recreation, 4-H sponsors and market. The education committee keeps the general public informed about home demonstration work through reports to county commissioners, the county governing body, concerning the achievements of home demonstration work. They are responsible for programs on government to be given to the local clubs. They attend budget hearings of the county and report on these to the council and clubs. These reports are bringing about a much better understanding of county finances.

The Rural Life Conference to be held at the University of Illinois January 8 to 12, 1940, will have for its central theme "Stabilizing the Rural Community." Topics for discussion will be: A Modern-Day Roll of Credit; The Application of Law In and Outside the Court; The Church Leader's Responsibility; The Responsibility of a Doctor; The Effectiveness of Schools in Training for Life; The Proper Administration of Rural Relief; The Landlord and the Tenant - Their Places; The Farmer: the Part He Can Play; The Homemaker - Her Opportunities.

A Cornell Extension Bulletin, "Locating the Rural Community" (39) describes in concrete terms how communities and neighborhoods can be located in America. Emphasis is given to the importance of locating communities in order that extension and planning work may magnify their efforts of meeting needs of whole communities rather than isolated families, and in order that centralized school systems and political local government or political units may have their centers in communities.

NOTES

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Division Notes

During the last months there have been a number of changes in the makeup of the staff of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare. Below are

listed the professional persons who are on the staff at present, together with a brief indication of their major fields of work and, in the case of those recently added to the staff, their recent former connections:

Carl C. Taylor	- In Charge
James O. Babcock	- County Agricultural Planning, Flood Control, Field Relations (formerly Farm Security Administration)
Helen Wheeler	- Farmers' Movements, Disadvantaged Classes
W. T. Ham	- Farm Labor, Tenancy, and Rural Rehabilitation (formerly in charge of the work in Tenure Relations, AAA)
Olaf F. Larson	- Rural Dependency, Rural Rehabilitation (formerly in charge of the regional office in Amarillo)
J. C. Folsom	- Farm Labor
E. J. Holcomb	- Farm Labor (formerly associated with the work in Tenure Relations, AAA)
W. C. Holley	- Social Aspects of Farm Tenancy (formerly with the Work Projects Administration)
Olen Leonard	- Farm Labor
O. E. Baker	- Population Problems, Human Geography
Conrad Taeuber	- Rural Migrations, Population Problems, Vital Statistics
Nettie P. Bradshaw	- Population Problems, Human Geography
Homer Hitt	- Rural Migrations (formerly graduate work at Louisiana State University)
Charles P. Loomis	- Community Organization
Douglas Ensminger	- Community Organization (formerly graduate work at Cornell University)
Dwight Davidson	- Community Organization
John Page	- Community Organization (formerly graduate work at Syracuse University)
C. H. Hamilton	- Standards and Levels of Living (formerly at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College)
Kimball Young	- Social Psychology (formerly at University of Wisconsin)
E. J. Hulett, Jr.	- Social Psychology (formerly at University of Illinois)
John Provinse	- Cultural Anthropology (formerly Soil Conservation Service)
Ralph H. Danhof	- Cultural Anthropology (formerly University of Michigan)
Walter Kollmorgen	- Cultural Anthropology (formerly Division of Land Economics)
Horace Miner	- Cultural Anthropology (formerly Wayne University)
Kenneth MacLeish	- Cultural Anthropology (formerly graduate work at Harvard University)

State Notes

Work has been started at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute on the analysis of the standards of living of Negro farm and town families in the southern half of the State. Preliminary tabulations have indicated the prospect of some ex-

tremely interesting contrasts between the Negro and white standards of living in Virginia. Not only are there general differences between the races but the variations in the relationships between town and country standards of living for the two races are also significant.

Mimeographed papers are available from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station on the following subjects: An Improved Farm Rental Contract Will Increase Farm Income, Livestock Share Leases on Cotton Farms, and A Survey of Public Opinion on Farm Ownership and Tenancy. Reprints are available on Texas Farm Tenure Activities and the Social Effects of Recent Trends in the Mechanization of Agriculture.

The Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station has begun a study to locate, define, and describe types of farm tenancy areas of Oklahoma in terms of the socio-economic and physical characteristics of each area as indicated by the prevalent types of agriculture in it. A preliminary part of the study was undertaken between May 1 and July 1, 1939, and it was decided to carry on the study more intensively during the current fiscal year. The project will be operated jointly between the Departments of Sociology and Rural Life and of Agricultural Economics, in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

A conference of State leaders, including officials of many Statewide organizations, met in Roanoke, Virginia, to consider constructive measures for dealing with Virginia's large and increasing marginal population. Committees based their deliberations on the findings of the study of marginal population now nearing completion which has been under way for some time by the Rural Sociology Division of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the State Planning Board, the WPA, and other agencies. During the month of November there will be a campaign of public education to bring the findings of this study to the attention of the whole State. A number of Statewide organizations are giving their support to this campaign.

In cooperation with the other interested State agencies, the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station has undertaken a comprehensive study of the rural youth situation in Virginia. The study will follow two procedures: first, analysis of available data regarding important phases of the youth situation on a Statewide basis; second, intensive-schedules studies of a number of type situations. The chief points of emphasis of the undertaking are the employment outlets for youth on various economic levels and the educational preparation for the outlets available.

With one out of every three families living in the rural areas of northern Wisconsin receiving relief in one form or another, and two out of three succeeding without assistance, the question arises: What accounts for the difference? Why, with approximately the same type of natural resources, similar working conditions, and about the same accessibility to markets, do two-thirds

of the people succeed in making an independent living while the remaining third fails? Clearly, factors other than the purely economic and geographic must account for the difference. What are these other factors? It is in an attempt to discover some of these factors, and association of factors, that the Department of Rural Sociology, cooperating with the Social Surveys Section of the Work Projects Administration, is studying a representative sample of 220 farm families in Sawyer County, Wisconsin.

In cooperation with the Northern Great Plains regional office of the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare and the Montana State College Experiment Station a study is being made of the sociological phases of farm families living on submarginal farms in Teton County, Montana. Teton County is the unified county from the standpoint of county planning work. This information is to be secured at the request of and in cooperation with the county planning groups who have already done considerable work on land classification and size of farms in the county, having used most of the available secondary data.

The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station is starting a study of "Levels of Living and Social Adjustment of Ohio Farm People." This project is a part of a larger study of Levels of Living and Population Movements but is unique in that it proposes to study the relationship between social adjustment and various levels of farm family living. In order to measure levels of living, a standardized social-economic scale similar to those measuring devices that have been devised for measuring urban family status and similar to that recently devised by Sewell in his study of farm families in Oklahoma is to be used. The measurement of social adjustment will use attitude and personality, home adjustment, occupational adjustment, and neighborhood adjustment to varying levels of living.

Paul H. Landis has been appointed Dean of the Graduate School of the State College of Washington. He will continue to be in charge of the Rural Sociology Division of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Other Notes

More than 200 young people attended and one-half of them took leadership parts in the annual conference program of the Youth Section, American Country Life Association, held at Pennsylvania State College, August 30 to September 2. The group represented 37 affiliated and a considerable number of other organizations in 20 States. The meeting consisted of five major phases: discussions, lectures, or talks, program-helps sessions, exhibits, and recreation including folk dancing and use of home-made game equipment. It was held in connection with the national forum of the American Country Life Association on "What's Ahead for Rural America?"

General discussions were opened by a symposium on the relation of the farm group to labor and industry. Youth joined with adults in these discussions. In addition they had other discussions under their own direction on

opportunities for rural young people in the fields of agriculture, non-farming, and rural leadership. They also attended the general symposium on continuing education and this served as a basis for their special-interest group meetings on the means of attaining informal educational objectives.

The following officers were elected: president, William R. Miller, University Grange, Ohio State University; vice-presidents, Joyce Cotton, Home Economics Club, University of Kentucky, Richard Deters, Rural Youth Organization of Pike County, Bowling Green, Missouri, Ralph Adams, Wilson Chapter of Alpha Zeta, Iowa State College; secretary, Dorothy Fouche, Maryland All-Stars, Adamstown, Md.; editor, Gwendolyn Romine, Collegiate 4-H Club, Kansas State College.

Preliminary returns from the Russian Census of 1939 indicate an urban population which is more than double that reported in 1925. At the same time there was a decrease of 5 percent in the rural population. The total population increased by 15.5 percent and is now more than 170,000,000.

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>Percentage change</u>
Total	170,467,186	147,027,915	+ 15.5
City	55,909,908	26,314,114	+112.5
Country	114,557,278	120,713,801	- 5.1

The population of Moscow has more than doubled since 1926 and is now 4,137,018; that of Leningrad increased from 1,690,065 in 1926 to 3,191,314. Most cities of 100,000 and over doubled in size during the 13-year period.

Editorial Research Reports has compiled a report on the "Problems of the Migrant Unemployed" (53) which describes the development of the problem in the depression, the extent and causes of the migrant problem, conditions among such migrants in California, and relief efforts and remedial proposals.

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(4) "Soil Conservation and Related Subjects: A List of Publications and Conservation Charts," Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Rev. June 1939, 13 pp.

(5) "Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions, on the Elm Creek Watershed, Texas," by Harvey Oakes and Elias Somerville, U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Jan. 1939, 20 pp.

(6) "North of 66," by C. E. Hazard, Farm Security Admin., U. S. Dept. of Agr., Washington, D. C., Aug. 1939, 36 pp.

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(13) "Local School Unit Organization in Ten States," by Henry F. Alves, et al., Bul. 1938, No. 10, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 1939, 334 pp.

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(16) "Regional Planning: Part VIII. Northern Lakes States," National Resources Committee, Washington, D. C., 1939, 63 pp.

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